NIAGARA COLLEGE
Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
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CENTRE

NIAGARA NEWS

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Health and safety students receive IAPA certificate

Second-year students in the Health and Safety Co-ordinator program say the IAPA certificates they hold in their hands will look even better on their resumes. Top left: Jason Dion, Yvonne Allison, Sandy Siren, Jim Klys (program co-ordinator). Bottom left: Kathy Marshall, Kristie Brown

Photo by Dean Michel

By DEAN MICHEL
Staff Writer

Safety first.

Twenty-one Niagara College students in the graduating year of the Health and Safety Co-ordinator program have received certification to support this motto.

The Industrial Accident and Prevention Association (IAPA) presented the class with individual certificates at the college's St. Catharines campus Feb. 15.

Niagara College is the first community college to integrate the IAPA practical loss control leadership course with a core program.

Program co-ordinator Jim Klys says the IAPA offered the eight-week course to Niagara College at a "substantially" lower rate than industry pays. Students did not pay an extra fee for the course.

An IAPA certificate holder himself, Klys says he hopes to convince the college to adopt IAPA training into curriculum because "it has value and is well recognized by industry all over the world.

"I'm excited that the college was able to offer this course," Klys says. "Partnerships with safety organizations and industry is the way to go."

Jon Ogryzlo, director of Niagara College's School for Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness, says the IAPA certificate course reflects the college's goals in the program.

"The health and safety program is very much focused on the needs of industry," Ogryzlo says. "We try and provide students with the certification which industry requires."

Clarence McCloskey, the IAPA consultant who taught the course, says it was well received by the students. He says the course fosters a proactive approach to safety in the workplace.

"Loss control focuses on the prevention of everything that disrupts an organization," McCloskey says. "It deals with managing people, equipment, materials and environment. It's the prediction of loss and how to prevent it."

He says the IAPA course allows everyone in an organization, from senior managers down, to develop preventive strategies.

"The methods in this program apply to everything," McCloskey says.

McCloskey's students say they can use IAPA in the field.

Sandy Siren, of St. Catharines, a student of the program, says "it was a good course because it went into great depth. If I get a job in my field I will use it for sure. It's an advantage to have the IAPA certificate."

Siren says job applicants with IAPA certification can show potential employers how to save money through accident prevention.

Classmate Ross Chudzik of Jordan, Ont., says IAPA training is practical.

"I've done a couple co-op placements and I've seen how the IAPA techniques are practical, especially in a hospital. I can see how employers would appreciate it."

Chudzik says it is a "definite advantage" to have the IAPA certificate on his resume.

"The IAPA gets a lot of respect."

College Council not priority

By BEN FISHER
Staff Writer

Recruiting faculty members for College Council is not at the top of the priority list for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Local 242.

"The College Council, in my opinion, has not been particularly effective. It has confounded issues for the union more than it has clarified issues," says Sherri Rosen, OPSEU Local 242 faculty union president at Niagara College. She says issues brought before other bodies should have been directed through committees which were established under the collective agreement.

"Many faculty members who have sat on (College Council) have relayed to me that it has essentially been a waste of their time," Rosen says. "It has died a quiet death at this point."

College Council is intended to have representation from faculty, support staff, students and administration. It is intended to be an advisory board to the president on all issues relating to the college. The council does not make any laws or regulations. Only one meeting has occurred this academic year. In attendance were past and present executive members, minus a council chair who has not been replaced. They discussed council's direction for this academic year.

Rosen doesn't see the council as an effective communication vehicle. She didn't comment on whether it can be an effective body in the future.

The college has indicated setting up a meeting which the union plans to attend, Rosen says. "We'll see where we go from there. Someone has to tell me what the purpose of this is. It died out for many reasons. What's going to prevent it from going the same route?

"It hasn't been because faculty isn't there. It's because all the groups sort of petered out. They were finding it a waste of time," she says.

"It's quite hard sometimes to get warm and cuddly and work together when the people you are going to work with are going to cut your jobs," states Rosen.

"Under this president (Dan Patterson) maybe things will be different," says Rosen. She adds the college hasn't convened a meeting, although they said they would.

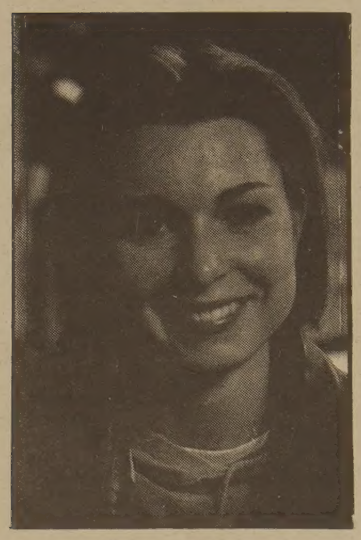
'Sole' Asylum!

Decisions, decisions. Shoppers take advantage of winter sales at Maple View Centre in Burlington, Ont.

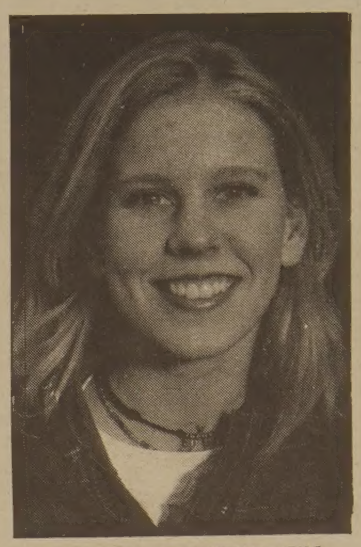
Photo by Stephanie Bonner

CAMPUS VOICES

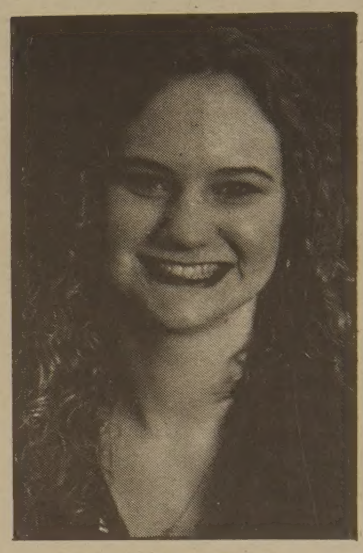
Are you getting your money's worth?



JEN TREPANIER



KELLY VERDERHALVEN



KRISTINA BUTLER

KAREN KENNEDY

TRINA CHISHOLM

STUDENTS PAY $132 IN "SAC FEES," DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GETTING YOUR MONEY'S WORTH?

The question was placed to students, many declined to comment but some agreed to express their opinion.

"I have no time for SAC activities because of the workload," said Jen Trepanier, 20, who lives in Welland.

The first-year student from the Dental Assistant program said she doesn't get "activity time" on her schedule. "I don't think we are getting our money's worth because it isn't in our schedules," she said.

Others expressed their content with the ways things are.

Kelly Verderhalven, 19, said she has seen only a few bands because last semester she had classes which kept her from any activities.

"If the money is going somewhere, I'm glad the activities are there," said the Oakville native who is a first-year student of the Journalism-Print program.

"We get our money's worth. Not only do they have bands, but they have comedians, hypnotists and the pool-shark guy," said Kristina Butler, 19, who resides in Ridgeway.

The first-year General Arts student said SAC does a good job and they have "cool contests" such as the "butt contest."

First-year Legal Assistant program student, Karen Kennedy, 21, said she gets her money's worth since SAC advertises the activities "well and does a good job at it."

"Oh yeah, because there are always events going on," said Trina Chisholm, 19, a Hamilton native.

The first-year Legal Assistant program student said "It gives us two hours to recuperate from our classes."

Laura Foster, 20, said she thinks SAC is doing a good job.

"We get to go to the pub to drink, listen to some good bands and do some sumo-wrestling," said the first-year Legal Assistant student.

There were some who expressed a little indifference.

Melanie Kuromen, 19, a first-year General Arts program student, said SAC does a good job since they always have bands and there are always things planned.

She said it's not good when classes are scheduled during the SAC hours "I had to skip a lecture to watch the O.J. veridict, What's up with that?" she added.

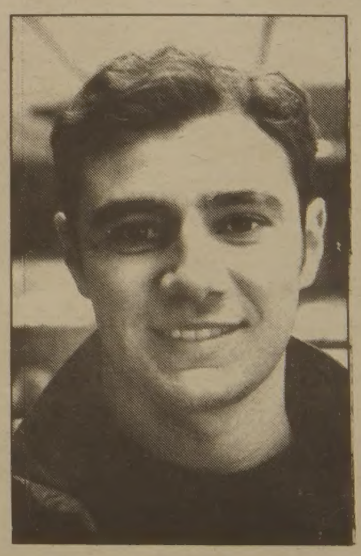
"There's nothing to do in this school. It's fine with the bands and the comedians but something could be developed for the in between time," said Luciano Berardocco, 22, a first-year Human Relations program student.

"Personally, I don't do any of the SAC activities," said 19-year-old Debralee VanGhent.

"Most of the time I don't know what's going on at the college," said the first-year Journalism-Print program student.

LAURA FOSTER

MELANIE KUROMEN



LUCIANO BERARDOCCO

DEBRALEE VANGHENT

Corrections

In last week's edition (Vol. 26 No. 11, Feb. 16, 1996), we misspelled the name of Janie Jamieson, a new employee at the college's Aboriginal Education Access Office.

On Page 4, in the story on Brigitte Chiki we should have said she graduated from Niagara College in 1984.

We apologize for the errors.

It is the Niagara News' policy to correct errors of fact.

How the leap year came about

By NANCY KIMSEY
Staff Writer

If he was alive today, big band musician Jimmy Dorsey would be celebrating his 23rd birthday on Feb. 29.

Dorsey was born Feb. 29, 1904. Although he died on June 12, 1957 at the age of 53, he only had 13 birthdays. He was born on Leap Year's Day, the day that only comes every four years.

There are two types of years used by astronomers. The solar year is the time it takes the sun to pass the vernal equinox twice. It is the basis of our common calendar year. The sidereal year is the time it takes the earth to return to the same place in its orbit in relation to fixed stars.

Our yearly calendar is based on the Gregorian calendar, created in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII.

The previous calendar, known as the Julian calendar, was created by and named after Julius Caesar.

In 46 B.C., Caesar asked astronomer Sosigenes to review and suggest improvements to the existing calendar.

Following Sosigenes' suggestions, Caesar divided the year into 12 months of 30 and 31 days each except February which would have 28. Every fourth year, February would have an extra day.

To implement the necessary changes, he ruled that 46 B.C. would have 445 days. People of the time nicknamed it "the year of confusion."

To honor Caesar, the month Quintilis was renamed July for Julius. Sextilis was renamed August to honor Emperor Augustus who moved a day from February to August to make it as long as July.

The Julian year was 365-and-a-quarter days long. It was widely used for more than 1500 years. By 1580 A.D., however, the spring equinox fell 10 days earlier than in Caesar's time.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ordered 10 days dropped from October of that year. Oct. 5 became Oct. 15 and the proper date was restored to the equinox.

He further decreed February would have an extra day in the century years (1900, 2000, etc.) divisible by 400.

The Gregorian calendar is so accurate there is only a 26 second difference between it and the solar year.

AUTOSHOW

By JENNIFER MITCHELL
Staff Writer

It all comes together at the AutoShow.

The Canadian International AutoShow at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and SkyDome ends on Feb. 25. The show began Friday, Feb. 16.

Vehicles of all shapes and sizes (and prices) were artistically presented. Some you could sit in and dream about and others behind ropes or on raised platforms free from the touch of human flesh.

Bustling crowds of people, cameras going off everywhere, expensive food and drink and a large number of vehicle-associated businesses were present.

Concept cars, cars in production, dream cars, race cars, trucks, sport utility vehicles, mini-vans. Car, car, everywhere a car.

One of the main (free) attractions was the Formula One Simulator located at the field level of the SkyDome. Two self-contained simulators were available for anyone 19 years of age and older to 'test drive'. One could experience the feel of accelerating to 100 km-h in a second and the roll and tumble of a spin or flip.

The National Basketball Association's Toronto Raptor truck was also on the field level of the SkyDome guarded by two Raptor players providing you with the chance to win a T-shirt if you sank three out of three baskets.

The Toronto Star 'Wheels' staff writers were on hand for any questions or comments about the section.

The Hyundai Dealers Association, The Toronto Sun and CHUM-FM radio station gave away one Hyundai Elantra every evening of the AutoShow.

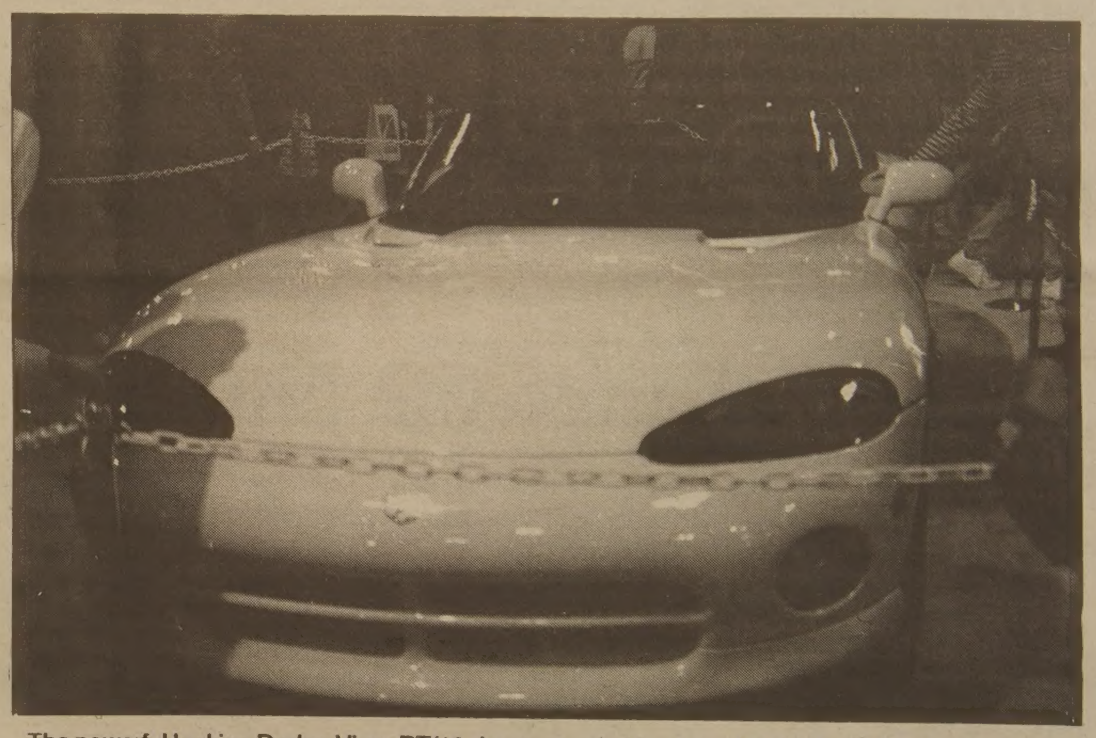
The Chrysler Family Affair Contest provided four vehicles for a lucky winner, the Dodge Caravan, Breeze, Neon and Jeep TJ.

Opening day you could meet Mario Andretti, auto-racing superstar.

Bell Mobility had the Race for Deals Sweepstakes, a contest to win Molson Indy tickets, or a trip to the Molson Indy Vancouver, or the Grand Prix Molson in Montreal.

This creative display showed off the versatility of the Nissan Pathfinder in the Metro Convention Centre.

Photo by Jennifer Mitchell



The powerful looking Dodge Viper RT/10 draws an admiring crowd at the Canadian International AutoShow.

Photo by Jennifer Mitchell

One of the more unusual models presented was the Ford GT90, a two-passenger concept car with an all-aluminum V12 mid-engine fed by four turbochargers.

The Mercedes-Benz All Activity Vehicle (AAV), to be built in South Carolina, goes on sale in the fall of 1997. The AAV, with its rounded, bubble-like exterior, was an interesting sight. It is touted by Mercedes-Benz as a "purpose-built" sport utility vehicle.

Ford previewed its all-new 1997 Ford F-150 full-sized pick-up at the show. Ford came out with the industry's first standard third door on the passenger's side provided in the SuperCab version.

Representatives of the high end vehicle price range were the Hummers, Porsches, Rolls Royces, Ferraris, the Viper RT/10 and, of course, the Lamborghini.

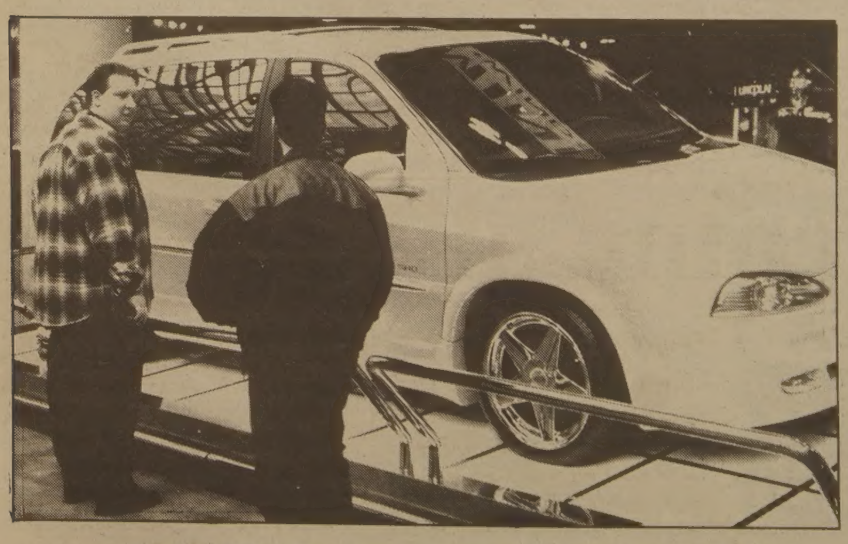
Prices in Canadian funds for this line-up can range from $65,900 for the Hummer to $300,000 for the Lamborghini. A mid-range vehicle would be the Porsche at $93,300 or the Viper at $82,320.

At the low end of the Canadian price-range are a multitude of entry-level models including the Lada Samara three-door Hatchback at $7,295, the Hyundai Accent at $9,995, the Suzuki Swift at $10,795, the Geo Metro, and the Pontiac Firefly at $10,995, the the Ford Aspire at $11,295, the Dodge Colt at $11,995, the Honda Civic Hatchback at $12,995, the Chevrolet Cavalier at $13,030, the Plymouth Neon at $13,335, the Acura Integra at $18,795, and the Oldsmobile Achieva SL at $19,925.

The truck or sport utility vehicles entry-level market is almost as large and statistics indicate it is growing. Sales increased by 8.2 per cent as car sales fell by 7.7 per cent, states a quote in the Toronto Sun newspaper.

Prices and models range from the Lada Niva at $10,595, the Suzuki Sidekick at $15,995, the Nissan Pathfinder at $28,998, and the Land Rover at $41,900.

The show runs daily at 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Adult admission costs $10, children 12 and under $5, and children six and under are free.



At the AutoShow there was some speculation about the SHO van, a take-off from the Taurus SHO.

Photo by Jennifer Mitchell

One lucky participant gets the thrill of a lifetime on the Formula One Simulator.

Photo by Jennifer Mitchell

CAMPUS NEWS

Board discusses college initiatives

By TERESA ARMSTRONG
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Board of Governors met on Feb. 15 and discussed a number of college events and new college initiatives.

The board welcomed new board secretary Helene Moscato who replaced Isabell McGarry. McGarry, who replaced long-time employee Mary Hornak in November, went back to work for the Niagara College Foundation.

President Dan Patterson noted the tremendous turn out for the new speakers series. The most recent presentation, entitled "Why is there still war in our world?" featuring Dr. James Orbinski, was Feb. 20 (for related reports see page 14).

Patterson also praised Niagara College graduate Carol Alaimo who won the Premier's Award for outstanding graduate in the field of applied arts. He called the achievement, which includes a $5,000 bursary donated to Niagara College to assist single parents, a "special moment."

Niagara College's Access staff presented a model for Workfare to the Minister of Community and Social Services David Tsubouchi. The presentation outlined college training programs that could be adapted for the government's new Workfare program. The model was co-ordinated with the Social Services Department, the YMCA and the college's Entrepreneurship Department. The college hopes to be the "trainer of choice" when the government announces the Workfare program.

Niagara College has been designated "Trainer of Record" by the Ontario Casino Corporation for training personnel for the new Niagara Falls Casino. Several meetings were held in January to discuss the college's involvement in training dealers and slot machine mechanics. The casino is scheduled to open in October 1996.

College designated trainer of record

Carol Boettcher, vice-president of community and learner services, called the record enrolment of January-start students, "something to celebrate." There are 620 January-start students, up 24 per cent from past years. Overall, the number of full-time students rose 4.5 per cent to 4,894. The college's previous record enrolment was in 1994 totalling 4,807 students.

Boettcher also told the board that the SAC's Board of Directors has decided to change the name of Wintercourse because of the temptations of suggestive advertising for the event. Boettcher said a contest will be held to rename the winter carnival.

The campus book store saw its sales boosted considerably in January. Hans van der Slagt, vice-president academic, credits the increased January-start enrolment as well as new product lines for the sales increase. January sales totalled $622,715 up from $462,018 recorded in January 1995. The sales include textbooks, stationery, computer equipment, parking permits and clothing.

The board heard there is a recommendation to charge students to access the college's Internet system. Van der Slagt told the board there are over 2,000 students and staff who have access to the Internet. He said the system has been slowed down through the sheer number of users. If a fee is introduced it would cost students about six or seven dollars a month. Staff members would not have to pay to access the Internet but would be charged to use the World Wide Web.

SAC commended

Feeling not unanimous

By TERESA ARMSTRONG
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Board of Governors applauded Student Administrative Council (SAC) for their role in raising funds to pay for the $20,000 damage to the Ontario Legislature.

Board member Ian Hennessy brought forth a motion to commend SAC for their "responsible leadership," at the board meeting held Feb. 15.

SAC plans to raise at least $500 for repairs to Queen's Park after 1,200 university and high school students stormed the legislature on Feb. 7. The students were protesting cuts to post-secondary education and tuition increases.

The motion was met with a round of applause by the board, but the vote was not unanimous.

Appointed governor David Miscolczi was opposed to the motion saying "we're suffering as a college and we're paying for the damage."

Miscolczi said he doesn't support the violence that erupted, but said the Ontario Legislature is a taxpayers building and the taxpayers were not allowed in.

Miscolczi said the board is applauding a great job when really "we are shooting ourselves in the foot."

'We are shooting ourselves in the foot'

Miscolczi

Chair Rick Bassett clarified the motion saying it is with respect to the violent actions of the students not the college's political status. He said the emphasis of the motion is to commend the leadership of SAC.

Funding cuts will change the future of education

By BEN FISHER
Staff Writer

Funding cuts are changing how future post-secondary education will be delivered, in the eyes of two.

Ontario Premier Mike Harris has announced cuts to the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union (OPSEU) affecting 67,400 people.

On Feb. 16, two-thirds of OPSEU's members rejected the contract offered by the province. About 72 per cent of eligible voters turned out. The union can legally strike Feb. 26.

"I would tell my members not to sit back and be complacent because the Ontario public service is our first line of defence," says Sherri Rosen, president of OPSEU Local 242 at Niagara College and executive board member for OPSEU. "If this government can roll-over 60,000 people without a by your leave, we're next in his sights," Rosen fervently states.

"I don't see college presidents, or anybody else, advocating for this system of public education.

"What could be at stake here is quality, public education at the post-secondary level."

She says people need to get involved on the Feb. 23 and 24 days of protest. "Because remember, silence is consent." Rosen says, "If this government can so easily push aside the public service not only will it rip the heart out of the (social) contract . . . it will change services. This may come down to a fight over whether or not we want to have a public service."

Niagara College President Dan Patterson says he belives there are other venues to express concerns. "My preference is that we utilize our success stories, and the important role we play in the economic life of the community, to convince the government that cutting education could backfire in the long-term."

Patterson says every dollar spent on education will have a direct, beneficial impact on Ontario's economy.

Rosen says colleges haven't been impacted by the government's cuts yet. However, "you can't continue to take out the kind of money you're taking out of education, and the colleges, and expect no impact.

"How long can you pass along the costs? How long can the colleges agree quietly to cut?" she asks.

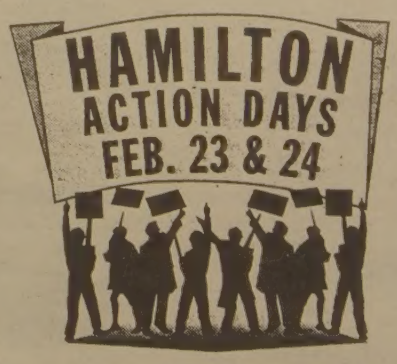
Patterson says, "We have to be very careful that one of the pillars of our educational system (remains in place). The current fiscal crisis the government is faced with has created a situation, in which tuition had to be raised."

"You can't continue to have fewer (funding) dollars and more students, and continue to say it's not going to affect anything," says Rosen. "You can't continue to pursue access and quality when the money gets less. Something has to give."

Rosen says Niagara hasn't had to reduce its enrolment.

"The college presidents have not, over the years, been very effective. I don't know if they've ever taken on the government about the funding system for the colleges," she says.

Patterson says differently. "I think the role of a (college) president is to be an advocate within their own institution. I like seeing myself as a real champion for Niagara College. The president needs to advocate to the government on important issues of higher education . . . currently occurring because of the budget cuts."



He says the Council of College Presidents has been lobbying on behalf of the college system, attempting to minimize cuts.

"This government is quite prepared to go along with survival of the fittest," says Rosen. "The colleges have not done a good job in being visible and vocal and being political and being in the face of the public, or the ministries.

"The college presidents did not go kicking and screaming to the ministry when they heard about these cuts. They went to them behind everybody's back and said, 'Spread it out over time, and here's our wish list.' It's a recycled wish list that they've been trying to get into collective bargaining for years."

The Council of Presidents has met with various provincial ministers and put together papers outlining their position.

"I feel we've been doing that effectively," says Patterson. However, "we need to be more assertive in pointing out that college education is key to the future economic growth of the province."

Rosen says if administration "ever wanted to work together with their unions, what bigger, better issue than the continued existence of quality public education."

Patterson says means for sustaining certain programs have been examined. "We've found in some cases we can support changes. In others unfortunately, time is our worst enemy. We do not have the opportunity to explore alternatives within the time-frame the government has given us," he says.

"I'm holding out great hope for Patterson that he doesn't follow the actions of past college presidents," says Rosen.

"I think he has some integrity. He hasn't been affected yet. I'm hoping that he's going to be his own person and do what he thinks is good for Niagara (College) in the long-term. I'm holding out great hope that he will not be a clone of all the other college presidents over the last number of years."

"We're really in a new era of cuts," says Patterson. He says the college has not had to deal with such severe cuts in the past. "What we've tried to do is be sensitive to the individual needs, as well as recognize the important organizational requirements that are there for the future.

"I've worked hard to position the college as a strong economic player in the life of the community," he says, adding the college's role is to prepare people for changes in the economy.

Continued on page 16

Pulse Niagara goes to the 'next level'

By RON WOLF
Staff Writer

Pulse Niagara is about to explode and its founder couldn't be any happier.

Jenifer Cass, founder of Pulse Niagara and part-time Business Administration, Marketing Management professor at Niagara College, said Pulse Niagara, a 9 1/2 year-old paper, was recently approached by a publisher who saw a future for it.

"I was approached late November by Dynasty Communications, publishers of View (magazine) in Hamilton," said Cass.

"It (the merger with Dynasty Communications) will take Pulse Niagara to the next level where I'd always hoped it would be," said Cass, "thirty-something."

"Right now we've formed a merger whereby they (Dynasty Communications) will bring some of their human resource people in to look after it (Pulse Niagara).

"They (Dynasty Communications) said we can take Pulse Niagara to that next step if we joined forces," Cass said.

Dynasty Communications said they wanted her to stay on because Pulse's audience knew Cass and she was knowledgeable about the Niagara peninsula, said Cass.

"As of March 6, Pulse Niagara will be called Pulse St. Catharines-Niagara. It will hit the streets as a weekly four-color paper," said Cass.

"The paper will be 16 pages with a little more advertising content than in the past."

Cass said she believes the paper's popularity will grow.

"We will be racked now. There will be Pulse Niagara racks in every location. We will be highly visible. I believe our readership will increase."

"When I was a student in my last year here (at Niagara College) studying Marketing Management, Business Administration, I was the entertainment social convener on SAC (Student Administrative Council)," said Cass.

Cass said her job at SAC was to hire bands and work with a lot of outside night clubs. She made some connections with local clubs when she left the college.

Cass said she was hired as an entertainment co-ordinator for a local club, but always had a problem when it came to getting coverage for the club's events.

"It was quite costly to try to reach the whole region so it gave me an idea to start an entertainment paper that would involve the whole peninsula," said Cass.

Cass said the students at Niagara College helped get Pulse Niagara under way.

"I got a co-op student from the college because the Marketing program a year after I left (college) had turned co-op. The students were looking for an eight-month co-op placement," she said.

"It kind of came together as a pilot project (which was) originally my idea, but a lot of the ground work was done by another student here at Niagara College, Ken Boyer."

Cass said teaching at the college is a new challenge for her.

"After 10 years of the newspaper, I can do it with my eyes closed," she said.

Jenifer Cass, founder of Pulse Niagara and part-time Business Administration, Marketing Management professor. **Photo Submitted.**

Cass said she was hired last January as a professor and enjoys teaching at Niagara College.

"(It is) one of the greatest opportunities that I ever had. I have the utmost respect for the people who are teaching here," said Cass.

"Everybody is very accomodating. This department (Business Administration, Marketing Management) runs like a well-oiled machine."

Counselling services available for aboriginal students

By LYN DUNLAP
Staff Writer

An Elder Support Service is just one of the many resources offered through the Aboriginal Education Acccess Office S102 at Niagara College's Welland campus.

LuVerna Clause, 56, of Fort Erie, is responsible for this counselling service.

Clause says she doesn't counsel students every time she's in, but often acts as a "sounding board" for issues that students sometimes just want to talk about.

"Students mostly come to me with personal and social problems that they want to discuss," she says. "I don't tell them what to do, but help them think it through for themselves. That has always been the way of our people."

When saying "our people," Clause is referring to her native ancestry.

Even though the service is available through the Aboriginal Department, non-native students have been benefiting from the service as well as native students.

"I'm someone to talk to for everyone. I still sometimes run into quite a few non-native students that I used to speak with last year in the hall, and we still go have a coffee and talk."

In addition to her counselling duties, Clause is also president of the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre board of directors.

There she attends board meetings and participates in policy making and "initiating programs all the time."

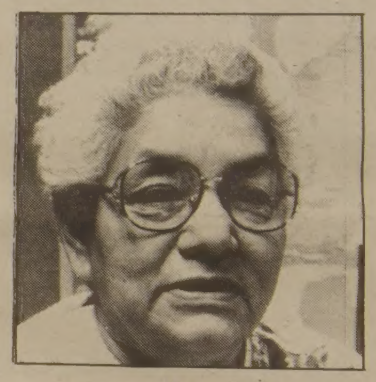
"We're always trying to improve the quality of life for our Aboriginal peoples," says Clause.

She also is a member of the Aboriginal Education Council at Brock University in St. Catharines and of the Aboriginal Education Management Circle (AEMC) at Niagara College. The AEMC is in partnership with Niagara College's Board of Governors.

"I help to give input toward Aboriginal Education and what goes in the programs," she said.

The Elder Support Service has been offered at the college since December 1994. Clause is in the office every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Asked about herself, Clause says "I am a sister to all native women and men, a mother, a grandmother, an auntie, a widow, but most of all I'm a friend.



LUVERNA CLAUSE

"My door is always open to everyone."

Library skills offered

By PAULINE POSTILL
Staff Writer

Imagine working a full-time job, and being a Niagara College student attending 18 hours of classes a week.

That is the challenge students in the Library Computer Network Operations face.

The one-year post-diploma program began in September 1995 at the Welland campus and finishes in June.

"There are 16 students in the program and 12 of them have full-time jobs," said Trish Labonte, head librarian at the Welland campus.

The demand for information resources is changing so quickly in libraries that librarians need to add networking skills to their other print-based skills.

The students learn DOS Unix and Windows '95 programs and they have put microcomputers together in the Voyageur building in V11A.

Labonte said that V11A was redesigned by the Technology division with the assistance of George Duczmal, a technologist at the Welland campus.

Students learn to design computer networks, cost them, and provide system security.

"The goal is to provide a design that will accommodate CD products and application software as a Microsoft office," said Labonte.

The students will learn how to install scanners and fax machines and how to connect to the Internet.

The students are in their final term and are looking into designing networks systems for the four libraries in the Niagara Region.

The four sponsoring libraries are the Welland Public Library, the Niagara Falls Public Library, the Fort Erie Public Library and the Learning Resource Centre at the Welland campus.

"We have received calls from British Columbia, Alberta, Kingston, Ottawa and Buffalo because the Network Operations program is so unique. It's focused on skills not currently available in most libraries," she said.

"It's a very technical and practical program and students are able to use the information immediately in their work environment," added Labonte.

President's office receives new resident

By TERESA ARMSTRONG
Staff Writer

A series of moves and renovations is taking place in the president's office.

Because of changes in the college's organizational structure, Lyn Russo, the college's director of communication and planning, and Maggie Sedler, administrative assistant, have moved into the president's office.

Closer communication with Dan Patterson. Lyn Russo

The rest of the communication and planning department will remain at Simcoe 102 until the end of May when renovations are completed in Hennepin Hall.

Hans van der Slagt, vice-president administrative services, will also be moving from the president's office into the second floor of the Learning Resource Centre.

Lyn Russo, director of communication and planning, moved into the president's office on Feb. 20.

Photo by Teresa Armstrong

The departments' shifts began Feb. 20.

As part of the revised college structure, the Communication and Planning department as well as the Niagara College Foundation now report directly to the president.

Russo said the move means the department will have closer communication with college President Dan Patterson.

As part of the reorganization, the Registration Services including Financial Aid, Admissions and Registration and Records will be moving to the Merritt wing of the Welland campus.

CULTURE

Different educational standards

Jennifer Bacon

Bringing education to students' doorstep

By JENNIFER BACON
Staff Writer

Once upon a time, before the flat tax, Harris' Common Sense Revolution and the Sovereignty issue, French and English speaking Ontarians were able to get along with one set of educational standards. Those days seem long gone.

Ontario's French community now has three post-secondary institutions servicing it. This is great news for French-speaking students. However, French-language instruction has always been available in Ontario.

Up until this past year, Niagara College offered a vast array of programs geared toward French students. No one complained; students seemed happy.

Now, in a time of program cuts and economic unrest, the federal government is pumping millions of dollars into a "pilot program" called College des Grands Lacs.

This French-language post-secondary institution is the third French-language college to pop up in Ontario, in as many years.

First, in Ottawa, there was La Cite Collegiale, with its impressive Taj Mahal-like facility. It is a great shrine for the French community, but is it not wiser to spend the dollars on programs and services for students?

Second in line was College Boreal, in Sudbury. Granted, the north is home to many French speaking Ontarians, but most northern universities offer French-language programs, as did many of the colleges.

Now, in the south, we have College des Grands Lacs. Not only does this institution bring French-language programs to the south, it brings education to most students' doorsteps.

Oh, what luck. With five satellites, these students will never have to leave their home towns. They can be taught in access centres across south western Ontario.

This is great, but who bears the cost? The federal government is funding these institutions for their first three years. La Cite Collegiale is just now beginning to feel cuts to programs having been weaned off government funds.

The programs offered at these French colleges were, at one time, offered at the English community college level. Would it not have been more reasonable to invest money in existing French-language programs, rather than construct new facilities and programs to accomodate a few French egos?

New programs approved

By JENNIFER BACON
Staff Writer

The Ontario Ministry of Education has given College des Grands Lacs the approval for seven new programs.

Robert Mayrand, dean of post-secondary studies at the college, said he foresees 500 new students enrolling in the French college for the 1996-1997 year.

He said provisions must be made.

The approved programs include second-year office administration, small business management, ambulance attendant, hotel and food services, social worker, general arts and science, and multi-media technician.

Mayrand said enrolment will play "a big factor" in how many programs will be offered.

Students are French college's main focus

By JENNIFER BACON
Staff Writer

At College des Grands Lacs, students are the main focus.

Robert Mayrand, dean of post-secondary studies at College des Grands Lacs, said he would rather see "money in training, not bricks."

He said he doesn't see a facility being built in the near future for the college.

College des Grands Lacs is one of three colleges specifically for

Francophones in Ontario. La Cite Collegiale services students in eastern Ontario from Ottawa, le College Boreal in Sudbury gives access to students in the north, and College des Grands Lacs' five access centres serve southern Ontario students.

Mayrand said plans are being made for a "rationalization of programs."

He said the three French-language colleges are looking at ways to exchange resources by offering programs by satellite, combining classes and reducing spending.

Mayrand said the opportunity to study by satellite would help students "learn how to solve daily problems on their own."

Letter to the Editor

On Monday, Jan. 22, when the new moon rose, over 1.2 billion people from a vast range of races, nationalities and cultures from across the globe began celebrating Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

Every year in the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk. The Islamic fasting (sawm) is one of the Islam's Five Pillars and is characterized by the light meal before dawn and abstinence from food, drink and sexual relations until it is time to break fast at dusk. By cutting oneself off from worldly comforts, a fasting person gains true sympathy for those who go hungry and grows spiritually.

Ramadan serves a fundamental purpose in Muslim unity. Internally, it unites the mind, body and spirit, on the global level it brings 1/5 of the world's population together in recognition of fast. During the month, Muslims increase their desire to do good work, to feed the poor and to help the needy.

Fasting fosters spiritually, patience and self-discipline. Fasting is compulsory for all mature Muslims except travellers, menstruating or pregnant women and any who is sick or old.

Fasting, which is recognized for its health as well as spiritual and psychological benefits, is considered, by Muslims, as a means to improve moral character and to provide an opportunity for spiritual renewal. It is a great time to reorient their lives, develop positive values and enhance their relationships in the family and in the community. This month also has special significance as it was during this time the Qur'an (holy book) was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

At the end of Ramadan , Muslims celebrate one of the major festivals of Islam, "Eid-ul-Fitr." Eid festivities include a special congregational prayer as a thanksgiving for the blessings of Almighty God and the ability to complete the month of fasting. It is a time of celebrations, feasts, gifts and visiting family and friends. On this day, or prior to it, each Muslim household pays charity to those in need so they too can participate in the joyous events. "Eid-ul-Fitr" is the Muslim community's assertion of unity and a time for prayer, thanksgiving and forgiving. The traditional greeting on this day is "Eid Mubarak."

Reprinted with files from Thameena Khan

Soobia Haq

Overseas work program placements available for those who apply

By LAURY REID
Staff Writer

Three overseas work programs are being made available to Niagara College students.

The European Union Visitor's Program (EUVP) is aimed at increasing mutual understandings between professionals from non-member countries and their EU counterparts and giving a first-hand appreciation of the EU's goals, policies and people.

The program is open to all young professionals and consists of a 10-day program of meetings with EU officials at the EU institutions in Brussels and Luxembourg. Participants are also invited to visit one other EU country of their choice.

The programs are co-ordinated by the EUVP Secretariat in Brussels, and travel costs across the Atlantic and within Europe are covered by the EUVP, as well as pocket money to cover meals and incidentals.

Five Canadians are selected to attend the EUVP every year.

"We select five people from applications in five categories," said Roy Christensen, head of press and information for the EU Commission Delegation in Ottawa, Ont. The categories are academic, medium, an association, labor, and civil service.

The program, which has been running for over 15 years, has hosted such well known Canadians as Sheila Copps, Bob Rae, Kim Campbell and Sven Robinson.

AFS Interculture Canada, a non-governmental, non-profit organization, is offering two overseas programs.

Dialogue Across the Americas offers 25 four-month placements - 10 in Brazil, 10 in Columbia and five in Honduras - every year for students and professionals with international development experience.

Applicants must be 20 or older and have at least a basic understanding of the language of the country which they wish to visit - Portuguese for Brazil and Spanish for Columbia and Honduras.

The program allows Canadians to work in partnership with organizations in the region on projects aimed at protecting the environment and developing communities and "promoting peace and good understanding of each other," said a spokesperson for AFS Canada in Montreal, Que.

Participants will live with a host family and work full-time as volunteers on projects with environmental or development agencies in those countries.

Subsidized in part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the program will cost participants $2,500 to help pay for travel, lodging, food and a spending allowance of $500. The actual cost of the program is $8,250.

A new program being introduced by AFS International Canada called Internship in Asia is aimed at offering Canadians a chance to gain valuable experience in specific fields and a better understanding of the complexity of socio-economic issues and relations.

Thirty placements are available in China, Indonesia and Malaysia for unemployed or underemployed individuals between 20 and 29. Applicants must have a college diploma or university degree in environment, tourism, technology, international relations or health.

Participants will receive intensive language training during the first month of their placement which begins in August and ends in March 1997.

The program is subsidized in part by the Human Resources Development Canada and will cost participants $2,000 to go towards food, lodging, insurance, transportation, orientations, support in the host country and $1,000 spending allowance. The actual cost of the program is over $12,000.

Jos Nolle, international operations officer at Niagara College, said although it is a "bit of an investment" on the student's part, these programs "make it possible for young people to get international exposure."

The application deadline for all three programs is March 1, 1996.

To apply for EUVP, applicants must send a letter containing a description of their current position, area of expertise, a brief outline of the topic to be studied in Europe indicating how it relates to career objectives (such as environment or social policy) and a completed application form to Nicole O'Neill, EUVP officer, EU Commission Delegation, 111 Albert St., Suite 330, Ottawa, Ont., K1P 1A5. For more information call O'Neill at (613) 238-6464 or fax (613) 238-519.

For more information on AFS programs contact the AFS Interculture Canada office at (514) 288-3282.

Musical Ride comes to Falls in September

By JENNIFER MITCHELL
Staff Writer

The Mounties are coming! The Mounties are coming!

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Musical Ride will be performing in Niagara Falls on Saturday, Sept. 14.

The ride will be performed at Oakes Park, on the corner of Stanley Avenue and Morrison Street.

The Niagara Falls District and Labour Council (N.F.D.L.C.) is responsible for getting the ride to come to Niagara Falls. Kim Craitor, president of the N.F.D.L.C., said the council hoped to host the ride to raise funds for the Niagara Falls chapter of the United Way.

Craitor said, "All revenue generated (from the performance) will be going to the United Way. We are totally ecstatic and very excited to be hosting the ride."

Before the RCMP will perform the ride, the Council's application had to be approved.

The hosting body had to show charitable status. The N.F.D.L.C. had to demonstrate they had the resources and facilities to host the ride. Craitor said that arrangements for stabling, food and water provision, and clean-up had to be completed to the satisfaction of the RCMP before the ride would be approved.

The city run Niagara Falls Service Centre, on Stanley Avenue, will be stabling the RCMP horses. Wayne Thomson, mayor of Niagara Falls, said he feels the public stabling of the horses will be a unique experience. "It will be great to let the public view the horses and meet and talk with the riders at the centre."

The committee organizing the event, was assisted by Detective Dave Day of the Niagara Regional Police and Constable Dean Dickson, of the RCMP, who has performed in the ride.

The ride involves 32 horses and riders completing a number of movements and patterns, said Dickson. The manoeuvres are reminiscent of those used by the English cavalry, he indicated.

"The music used by the ride was produced by the now-defunct RCMP band," said Dickson.

In the 1870s the first rides were performed by officers who attended county fairs and special events with their mounts.

The approximate height of the black, or dark brown, thoroughbreds used in the ride is 16-hands to 17-hands (64 inches to 68 inches) at the shoulder. Average weight per horse is 1,200 pounds.

Geldings (neutered males) are used 60 per cent of the time and mares (females) are used 40 per cent. The horses range from six to 23 years of age. The average age is 13.

A maple leaf is imprinted on the horse's haunch using a stencil and brushing the hair backwards, said Dickson.

The RCMP stud-farm is located in Pakenham, Ont., near Ottawa.

"Older horses experienced in the ride are often used to teach the inexperienced officers," says Dickson. The ride has been performed in Japan, Europe, the United States and all over Canada.

Dickson says he sees the ride as a good-will ambassador for Canada.

"No one person owns the RCMP musical ride. All Canadians do," said Dickson.

Thomson said at the Feb. 15 press conference, "It is about time that this wonderful ride came back to our community. It is, without exception, a very special event. It is very special, a lot of pomp and ceremony."

Niagara Falls previously hosted the ride in 1980.

The method of ticket distribution had not yet been decided. The ride was announced at an early date, said Thomson, because various publications and interest groups wanted to pre-advertise the event.

Ticket prices are expected to be $6 inclusive for all customers. An average of 3,000 people a show are expected to attend. There will be two shows, one at 2 p.m. and one at 7 p.m.

Second from the left, RCMP Constable Dean Dickson, Wayne Thomson, mayor of Niagara Falls, Kim Craitor, Niagara Falls District and Labor Council (N.F.D.L.C.) president, Brian Merritt, regional chair, and other members of the N.F.D.L.C. welcome the September arrival of the Musical Ride to Niagara Falls.
Photo by Jennifer Mitchell

Just pave it

By MIŁAN DURCO
Staff Writer

Gravel, gravel and more gravel.

Parking lot F, behind After Hours at the Welland campus, was created as an overflow lot four years ago.

For Parking lot F, the cost of asphalt over stone in that lot would be about $65,000.

To re-stone and grade every year costs $2,000, "however, we do not restone and grade every year," said Mal Woodhouse, acting director of Physical Resources Services.

Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of administration, said that due to non-sufficient funds the parking lot was not paved.

"It's much less expensive to go to crushed gravel," said Van der Slagt.

Van der Slagt said the paving of Parking lot F is not wanted until realignment of the campus and its facilities are completed.

SAC BITS

By LEE-ANN AYRES
Staff Writer

Boy, did we miss out!

Student Administrative Council (SAC) decided to scrap selling tickets for the soccer excursion in Buffalo on Feb. 18. SAC decided to donate the tickets to the Big Brother Association. The decision to do so came after poor ticket sales. Tickets were $10 all inclusive. The decision was made at the Feb. 15 regular SAC meeting.

The excursion included transportation to and from Buffalo to watch the Buffalo Blizzard take on the Wichita Wings. Prior to the game, students would have stopped at Hooligan's Restaurant for an all-you-can-eat and drink dinner.

Also discussed at SAC's meeting:

•SAC President Bren Biggs was approached by students about installing an Automated Bank Machine (ABM) at the After Hours building.

SAC members discussed reasons not to install an ABM. One reason was the large amount of money it would cost to install an ABM. Another was the high amount of traffic flow around the bank machine.

SAC looked into the possibility to installing Interac at the registers. SAC members tabled the idea until further research could be done.

•Sexual Awareness Week begins March 4. Some of the events are two guest speakers: Sue Johansen, from the radio talk show "Sex with Sue," and a speaker on AIDS.

•Biggs has been approached by students in changing the menu items at the Student Centre. Lou DiMattio, SAC liaison, asked that the recommendation be redirected to Student Centre Management Committee.

• Three new class representatives were elected at the Feb. 8 Class Representatives meeting. They are Don Woodruff, Mary Carlesso and Lee-Ann Setchell.

•SAC meeting times will be held Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. at the Student Centre.

FREE

Income Tax Preparation for Niagara College students by students

Free preparation service will be offered
March 4 to March 22, 1996

Tax documents can be dropped off at the Employment Services Offices:
Welland Campus - S101
St. Catharines Campus - 2nd floor
Hospitality and Tourism Centre
Monday to Thursday
9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Qualifying returns will be electronically filed and refunds returned in approximately 14 days.

For information contact:
Monique Morin, ext. 7790 or Heather Smith, ext. 7788.

Revenu Canada Revenue Canada

Canada

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211, Ext. 7750/382-2383. Fax (905) 788-3978.

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Responsibility needed at papers

Newspapers must take more responsibility for what they publish and give more consideration to consequences before doing so.

A newspaper reaches a lot of people in a day. If damaging information is printed, the individual or group may never be able to live down what was printed.

Some may say papers should print the facts and not worry about the end results; these people are fools. When something is printed that causes an individual to commit suicide, a paper has gone too far.

Perhaps the individual may have been unstable in the first place, and it's hard for an editor to know this before deciding what to publish.

A Cambridge, Ont., newspaper printed a story involving financial embezzlements, naming the individuals involved. Two suicides resulted from the names being printed.

Reporters are under tremendous pressure to meet their deadlines and maybe they do not take the time needed to think of all the consequences of their story. It is then the editor's job to decide what is printed and perhaps, at times, this responsiblilty is not taken seriously enough.

Deciding what the general public reads is not something to be taken lightly.

JEFF MACKAY

Government should wait for hen

It is better to wait for a hen tomorrow than to take an egg today.

This is the underlying philosophy of our provincial Progressive Conservative legislators, and it makes sense.

Like individuals, the government cannot afford to spend beyond its means. It must pay its debts and balance its budget. It must invest for future generations or face economic turmoil.

We suggest previous governments ignored this proverb. Their frivolous tax and spend policies create an unnecessary welfare state, without any consideration for the future. The eggs the New Democratic Party (NDP) laid have now gone bad and Ontario is left with nothing but one enormous, rotten debt.

With a provincial debt of $100 billion (doubled from $50 billion in five years by the Bob Rae administration) and a budget deficit of $10 billion, we can no longer sustain the irresponsible spending agenda of past governments. The Common Sense Revolution seeks to remedy this problem, by balancing the budget, reducing taxes and providing Ontarians with the opportunity to create their own nest eggs.

We believe students best identify with, and understand the necessity of the Mike Harris government. After all, our education is our own personal hen.

STEPHANIE BONNER

Letter to the Editor

Alumni regrets 'Mack' closure

Dear Editor:

The members of Mack Alumni Association (which began in 1901 and is still very viable and active) have as their purpose to maintain the following: unity within the Alumni; interest in the St. Catharines General Hospital; preservation of the history of the "Mack" Schools of Nursing; and advancement of the interest of the profession of nursing.

We would like it to be known that we empathize with those who will lose their positions as professors and support staff in the Nursing program at Niagara College. The professors have provided the knowledge and guidance to the nursing students who, as graduates, have been a credit to both Niagara College and the nursing profession.

We grieve the cancellations of the Nursing program at Niagara College which began in 1973 — one year before the last class of the "Mack" School of Nursing graduated.

We sincerely regret the loss of the Nursing program in the Niagara Region because those persons who desire to enter the nursing profession will now be required to travel or live away from home. This will cause hardship for those who have family responsibilities.

We would, however, like to clarify specific historical information. The Mack Training School for Nurses, which was originally known as the St. Catharines Training School and Nurses Home, was founded in 1874 by Dr. Theophilus Mack and was the first School of Nursing in North America set up under the Nightingale system (the students had to be under the leadership of a woman who was herself a trained and competent nurse).

In 1967, the name was changed to the Mack School of Nursing and incorporated the nursing school of the Greater Niagara General Hospital. At this time, the Regional Schools of Nursing were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health.

In 1973, the Nursing programs in Ontario were put under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Niagara College Nursing Diploma program was established. The "Mack" School ceased to exist.

Niagara College rented a classroom in the building known as the Mack Centre, which was and still is the property of the St. Catharines General Hospital.

In 1974, the last class from the "Mack" School of Nursing graduated and the centennial celebrations (1874-1974) of the "Mack" Schools of Nursing commemorated the end of an historical era in nursing history. One thousand, eight hundred sixty-two nurses have graduated from "Mack" during the 100 years.

In error, many persons who have graduated from Niagara College Nursing program identify themselves as "Mack" graduates. This reflects as a compliment to those who are "Mack" graduates because it is a known fact that the "Mack" graduates are recognized throughout North America for their competence and skills.

Historically, our school and many graduates are documented in text books related to the fields of nursing.

Those who graduated from "Mack" were saddened when their school was closed in 1974, but were heartened by the fact that a nursing program was already in place in Niagara College.

We can all appreciate the disappointment felt by those who have graduated from the Niagara College Nursing program knowing that the nursing program will cease to exist when the last class graduates in 1998.

The Mack Alumni has a proud heritage and will remain viable as long as there are living "Mack" graduates. Many of our historical artifacts which are the joint property of the Alumni and the St. Catharines General Hospital have been preserved, cataloged and are displayed periodically in the hospital.

We trust that this letter has expressed our concern of the closing the Nursing program at Niagara College and has provided accurate clarification about the history of the "Mack" Schools of Nursing.

The Mack Alumni Association
Katharina Burtch

See additional letter to the editor on page 6.

Your opinions welcome

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our **Letters to the Editor** section. Our policy regarding letter submission is:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.
2. Each letter must include the student's name, college identification number and program of study.
3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening phone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

OPINIONS

Timorese request political asylum

By VICTOR ZANIEWSKI
Staff Writer

In January 1996, Timorese refugees walked into Australia and New Zealand's embassies. Their pleas rang a familiar note — request for a political asylum.

Desperate Timorese separatists are turning up in order to get the world's attention in their fight for the independence. It is a struggle that lasted 20 years and consumed over one third of that country's population.

The refugees were promptly handed over to the Portuguese officials who granted them asylum.

Seeds of this conflict were rooted in Portugal's 1975 decision to withdraw from this tiny island. A civil war broke out in August of that year and on Dec. 7 Indonesia marched in, formally ending the European colonial era.

What followed could be summarized best by late Nathan Cohen as "an unmitigated disaster." Within a year, East Timor was declared Indonesia's 27th province.

Any resistance from the locals was exterminated by an army that in some international circles has been accused of carrying out campaigns of mass genocide.

The American involvement warrants a closer look. Washington isn't oblivious to the strategical importance of this part of the world. A submarine route connects the Pacific and the Indian Oceans. Additionally, the Indonesians who are receiving military training in the U.S. rely on the states to supply them with military arms.

In 1978, Indonesia started to run out of arms. The U.S. and other countries including Canada then stepped up their arms sales to Indonesia. The value of human life has never plunged so low.

With the exception of Fretilin (a group of Timorese freedom fighters), all other independence seeking groups have resolved themselves to the annexation.

East Timor is the last bastion of a truly free society, the society that managed to live outside of the global economic system. In the era of New World Order, nobody at the United Nations cares about this agrarian society.

Isolated by the international community, for Timorese refugees, all roads lead to Portugal.

PM Champ or Chump?

By DEAN MICHEL
Staff Writer

In the one-of-these-things-just-doesn't-belong-here file:

Ultimate Streetfighter, politician lacking adequate security or a leader out of control?

By now Prime Minister Jean Chretien's infamous grab, grit and drop move has been played and replayed in schoolyards and newsrooms (similar environments, you can be sure) across the land.

Further analysis on the media event of this short year...

The question everyone's debating seems to beg a black and white, North or South, tomayto or tomato answer.

Is Jean Chretien champ or chump?

From the 'champ' camp, one hears argument the PM had every right to toss disgruntled protestor-slash-separatist-slash-employment displaced Bill Clennett aside during his Flag Day walkabout in Hull.

"Hooray for Chretien, we've had enough of those separatists pushing us around. Besides, if the protestor had a job in the first place he wouldn't have the free time to be harassing our elected officials," one can hear supporters say.

The naysayers of Chretien's actions don't buy the hero sandwich treatment.

"Reprehensible behavior from our leader, he's a poor example for the country's youth, very unstatesmanlike and how dare he?" claim those who reject Chretien as a World Wrestling Federation wannabe.

And in between those two positions lie the Mounties and the Prime Minister's Office explanations.

The RCMP refuse to accept responsibility, it was a non-threatening situation they say.

The PMO says their man acted in self defense.

Chretien said immediately after the incident "I don't know."

Perhaps the most reasonable response is that of a CBC Radio Canada caller who said: "Jean Chretien is a human being and he has reactions."

Maybe he simply disliked Clennett's multi-colored chapeau?

ENOUGH OF THIS *nonsense!!*

Students arrested in act of stupidity

'I believe that we as a student body will suffer unless we somehow disassociate ourselves from such unions as the CFS'

By LEE-ANN AYRES
Staff Writer

On Feb. 7 over 1,200 students from Toronto high schools and universities stormed the doors to the legislature at Queen's Park in protest of a 20 per cent tuition increase.

Four students were arrested in the protest for "intimidating the legislature."

According to Simone Saint-Pierre, communications co-ordinator for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), it was "regrettable but predictable."

To some extent I agree with Saint-Pierre that it was regrettable. I regret that students, like myself, will be associated with such childishness and a total lack of ethics displayed by those accused.

These students have also intimidated the rest of the student population's futures since stereotype still plays a large part in the Canadian mentality.

The acts of these students are similar to that of a child. When a child can't have what he wants, the child throws a tantrum and screams becoming an embarrassment to those around him and still the child doesn't get what he wants. When an adult can't have what he wants, the adult looks for solutions, negotiations and alternatives. This is what separates the child from the adult.

Whether these students believe that Premier Mike Harris' Common Sense Revolution makes sense or not, their attempt at a revolution was common stupidity.

My question to them is what did they plan to gain from it?

Granted, they made their cause known at a national level (whether it was positive or negative is for you to decide), but surely there must have been a more sensible approach, not to mention a less expensive one to the taxpayer.

I believe that we as a student body will suffer unless we somehow disassociate ourselves from such unions as the CFS. The efforts put forth by Niagara College's Student Administrative Council in replacing the doors destroyed in the protest is a step in the right direction but I think more still needs to be done.

Unless we do more I fear we, as a group, will be punished for the acts of a few.

To those four accused, if convicted — congratulations! You'll get what you wanted — a free education!

SAC withholds information

By WILL WEBSTER
Staff Writer

After seven months as reporter on the Student Administrative Council (SAC) beat, I was genuinely convinced all was well with democracy in Niagara College's student council.

How easily an old salt is bamboozled.

After a brief hiatus, I return to find the entire administration in convulsions.

First SAC President Bren Biggs refuses to tell the Niagara News which SAC officers have resigned. I would remind Biggs that these people were elected by the students in this college. We, the students, are, in effect, these people's employers. If someone resigns, we, the employers, should know immediately. The resignees names are Mike, Paula and Lyndon.

There is nothing in the constitution or in law that mandates SAC withholding such information. If these people are in fact resigning because of academic pursuits, what is the need for secrecy?

If that rat's nest doesn't take the lid off, a document circulating at SAC meetings reveals Biggs has plans to de-democratize SAC by changing the vice-president external, vice-president internal and the vice president athletics into "appointed" positions. In the document, Biggs' proposals are backed-up by Mark McNiven, one of the few remaining SAC officers.

The document is an internal memo regarding proposed changes to the constitution. It is a good thing that constitutional amendments require the approval of the general electorate, in this case us, the students.

Biggs' rationale in this argument is that it will be easier to replace "vacant positions." Easier to replace them with a "yes man" than someone democratically elected by the students!

Why don't we just have college President Dan Patterson "appoint" the whole lot of them and save us the hassle of having to vote every spring? We could replace democracy with autocracy!

Better yet, why don't the whole lot of them resign and we'll have an early election.

With all this chill in the air, a little election excitement might take the edge off.

ENTERTAINMENT

'World's Greatest Escape Artist' thrills After Hours

Tony Riches (left) and Eric Scott tied the World's Greatest Escape Artist Dean Gunnarson's hands to his legs in an attempt to contain him in After Hours on Feb. 13.

Photo by Bob Giles

By BOB GILES
Staff Writer

It was a performance to remember.

"The World's Greatest Escape Artist," Dean Gunnarson, of Vancouver, B.C., performed before a capacity crowd at After Hours on Feb. 13.

Comedian James "*The Big Fella*" Salisko was the opening act. He will be travelling with Gunnarson for the remainder of the Ontario tour.

Salisko's real life humor was a great warm-up for this act which is geared particularly to university and college audiences. He came back later to assist Gunnarson in his act.

Gunnarson's escapes included both humor and audience participation.

College students Eric Scott and Tony Riches volunteered to assist in the small rope trick. Both men tied up Gunnarson's legs, and then his hands as tightly as they could.

Amazingly and humorously, he would pull out one hand, gesture one of the students over to a spot, and then put his hand back as if he had never freed it.

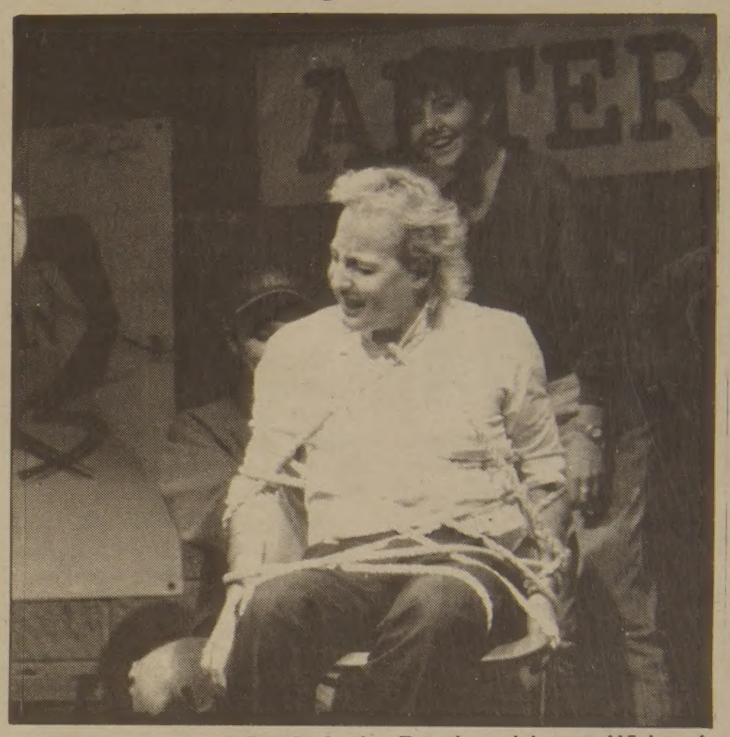
College students Catherine Peter and Jeremy Wickens tried their luck at tying up Gunnarson with a 50-foot rope. It took them two minutes and 30 seconds to tie him up, yet Gunnarson escaped in less than two minutes.

"This is a very difficult stunt to perform because I never know how the students will tie me up next. It's different every time, so there is no way to practice or prepare for it," said Gunnarson.

Student Steve Hanna didn't know what he was getting into until it was too late. Gunnarson got Hanna on stage and showed him a straitjacket. Before Hanna knew what was happening, he was tied up in the straitjacket.

After a little comedy, it was Gunnarson's time in the jacket. Then came the twist.

Not only was he tied in the straitjacket, but was also wrapped tightly in a 50-foot chain. Gunnarson managed to get out in two minutes and 20 seconds.



Dean Gunnarson defies Catherine Peter's and Jeremy Wickens' attempt at containing him within a 50-foot rope.

Photo by Bob Giles

Gunnarson has been on such Canadian television shows as Dini Petty Show, Live it Up, Canada AM, CBC Midday, The National, and MuchMusic. He has appeared on television in more than 40 countries, including shows like *Disney's Magic in the Magic Kingdom*, and *The Spectacular World of Guinness Records* (both in Los Angeles), and *Magic Star* and *Naruhodo! The World* (both in Japan).

Many of Gunnarson's escapes have been performed for charitable organizations, including The Rainbow Society, The Cancer Foundation, and as an ambassador for the Variety Club.

The Strawberries are in season

Roberta Carter Harrison of the Wild Strawberries performs at After Hours on Feb. 15.

Photo by Jeff MacKay

Leaving Las Vegas is a haunting beauty

By MARK FERENCE
Staff Writer

Nicolas Cage and Elizabeth Shue are at their career best in Mike Figgis's new film *Leaving Las Vegas*.

The film is based on an autobiographical 1991 novel by the late John O'Brien, who evidently committed suicide two weeks after he signed the deal to adapt his book into a film.

It is a film of haunting beauty and love between a desperate Vegas hooker and a fallen screenwriter who has chosen to drink himself into his grave.

Cage, as Ben, is remarkable. After losing his job, his friends and his life, he heads to Vegas to drink in the same manner as they gamble there. After all, who would possibly spot a guy killing himself with the bottle in the neon chaos of Las Vegas?

Sera, played by Shue, does however spot this pathetic yet charming drunk, adding confusion to her nightly routine. Shue, like Cage, is nothing short of brilliant in her role. After winning freedom from her pimp, Yuri, played by Julian Sands, she takes Ben in.

The movie seems to be heading in the expected direction of a story of an addict — some form of reformation — but *Leaving Las Vegas* doesn't conform. These two lovebirds accept each other as is, no strings attached. He drinks, she screws. That's who they are.

Occasional comments by cab drivers or bartenders remind us of the reality behind their lifestyles. But we seem to accept them as they accept each other. When he's not puking his guts out or shaking from withdrawal, and when she's not doing her tricks or getting battered by some frat boys, they connect with a real understanding and innocence.

The movie is alive with jazzy scores by Sting, alluding to emotions so thick you could touch them. The film's last few scenes are disturbing and desperate, illustrating just how fragile this relationship is . . . was.

Goodie Mob's Soul Food CD just leftovers

By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

The cover may read "parental advisory" but it should read "listeners beware".

Goodie Mobs Soul Food CD is enough to give you an upset stomach. In a world full of Rap and Hip Hop it's nice to hear something new and original, but Soul Food is all the leftovers from other bands rolled up into one.

The CD is full of noise and not an ounce of musical quality. The lyrics of songs like 'Cell Therapy' and 'Thought Process' cause you to fall into a state of confusion. Rap lyrics are generally witty, clever and cause a stir of thought, while Soul Food makes you appreciate guys like Vanilla Ice, a one-hit wonder.

The album was produced by Antonio M. Reid and Noize productions, released through LaFace Records and distributed by BMG Music Canada.

This CD is not the worth time or money it would take to purchase it. On a five star rating, I give this CD half a star.

Western Canadians steal show on Comedy Night

All it takes is a glass of beer and an appreciative audience to put a smile on Andrew Grose's face. The comedian performed at After Hours on Feb. 14.

Photo by Jeff MacKay

By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr.
Staff Writer

It was three for four at last week's comedy night, with western Canadians stealing the show.

Two comedians (one from Calgary and the other from Edmonton) left the crowd at the pub hungry for more in another great comedy night at After Hours on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Stan Thomson, from Edmonton, was the master of ceremonies for the evening. He began the evening by first walking on to the stage and giving the impression that he was drunk (who knows, he did hold a glass of beer through his turns on the stage). He then continued to tell the crowd about his trips to the USA and his memorable trips to the East Coast.

Everyone must have thought that Thomson's act would be a tough one to follow, and it was.

The second comedian was Harold Howard and him being a Toronto-native was the only important thing about him. He lasted a full 10 minutes, before the crowd's response to his flat jokes convinced him that he was going nowhere.

He tried talk about dieting, birth control pills and the usual vulgar word here and there, but to no effect - so out he went and in came Thomson.

He was right on time to save the mood of the evening. After gathering more laughs in two minutes than his predecessor did in 10, he announced the next feature attraction: Andrew Grose from Calgary.

Grose wasted no time in grabbing the crowd's attention by speaking of many important topics of life. From Ontario's provincial police to the antics of married people or plain old lovers.

For the record, Grose also walked on the stage beer in hand and kept telling the crowd either "I'm probably having a better time than you guys" or "F***, I'm hammered."

He also told of his many trips across Canada and tales from his old town.

Grose said in Edmonton, the police don't put up road blocks to check who has been drinking and who hasn't; they simply stand outside the bar until closing time and then stop the cars leaving the venue. The cops point their flashlights at the passenger seat and if the passenger is good looking they let you go. If the passenger is not they go "Uhg, yo come and take a look at this one, damn you're drunk."

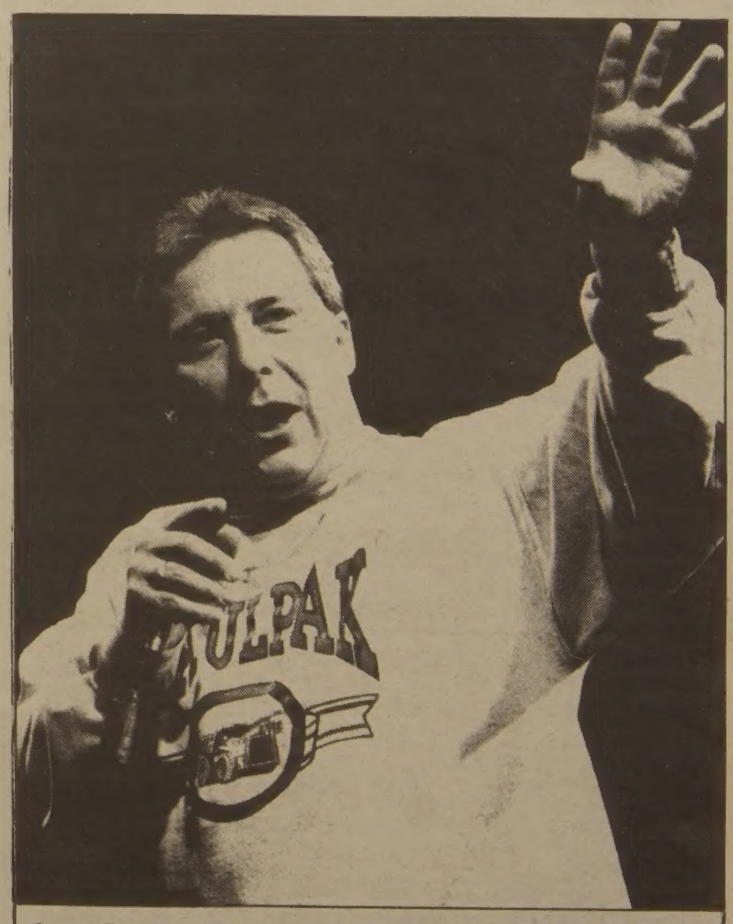
To all the ladies reading, not to worry he equally dished out ridicule to the guys. He said that when women are talking to an unreasonable guy they should use the stupid voice they use when they are talking to an animal - "Oh yes, you're so cute, you're such a good boy" and so on and so forth.

He spilled the dirt on Cornwall, Ont. and their Valentine's card which could read either "To my wife who is my cousin," or "trash like you is a dime a dozen."

And last but not least (after Grose finally got off the stage - against the crowd's liking), on came a very refreshing act. Allen Shain came on the stage and dished out his own unique brand of comedy.

He took pokes at everything, from drinking and Mike Harris, to his own disability. If anything, he was a lot funnier than the second act.

This act will be a tough one to follow by any future comedians.



Comedian Stan Thomson gives a big wave to After Hours on Feb. 14.

Photo by Jeff MacKay

THE CRNC TOP 40
FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 19

1. WONDERWALL	OASIS
2. 1979	THE SMASHING PUMPKINS
3. GLYCERINE	BUSH
4. PROMISE	VICTOR
5. WAITING FOR TONIGHT	TOM PETTY
6. THE WORLD I KNOW	COLLECTIVE SOUL
7. ONE OF US	JOAN OSBOURNE
8. SISTER	THE NIXONS
9. TAFFY	LISA LOEB
10. BETTER OFF AS WE ARE	BLUE RODEO
11. IN THE MEANTIME	SPACEHOG
12. WONDER	NATALIE MERCHANT
13. SLEEPY MAGGIE	ASHLEY MacISAAC
14. HEAVEN BESIDE YOU	ALICE IN CHAINS
15. U.F.O. ROSIE	WEEPING TILE
16. TELL HER THIS	DEL AMITRI
17. BAD AS THEY SEEM	HAYDEN
18. I WANT TO COME OVER	MELISSA ETHERIDGE
19. GOOD INTENTIONS	TOAD THE WET SPROCKET
20. YOU OUGHTA KNOW	ALANIS MORISSETTE
21. MISS SARAJEVO	PASSENGERS
22. TIME	HOOTIE AND THE BLOWFISH
23. GO WALKING DOWN THERE	CHRIS ISSAK
24. EVEN GRABLE	treble charger
25. SCREWED IT UP	LIMBLIFTER
26. OH SHELLY	BARNY BENTALL
27. BRUSH AWAY	ALICE IN CHAINS
28. FREE AS A BIRD	THE BEATLES
29. LIKE A ROLLING STONE	THE ROLLING STONES
30. SALT WATER FISH	RUBY
31. MY FRIENDS	RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
32. BULLET WITH BUTTERFLY WINGS	THE SMASHING PUMPKINS
33. LUMP	THE PRESIDENTS OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
34. TOES ACROSS THE FLOOR	BLIND MELON
35. IF I WERE YOU	k.d. lang
36. HEART OF GLASS	BLONDIE
37. WILDEST DREAMS	TOM COCHRANE
38. ROSEALIA	BETTER THAN EZRA
39. A GIRL LIKE YOU	EDWYN COLLINS
40. SISTER AWAKE	THE TEA PARTY

CAMPUS ROCK CRNC

SPORTS

Party over for men's volleyball team

Niagara's Alexis Saddler (11) goes for the kill in the loss to the Loyalist's Lancers.

Photo by Salvador Ramos Jr.

By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr.
Staff Writer

"Jitters" are blamed for the playoff party finishing early for Niagara's men's volleyball team.

Belleville's Loyalist Lancers defeated the Knights three sets to one in Ontario Colleges Athletics Association (OCAA) quarter-final action, last Sunday in home-court.

The Knights walked slowly, with their heads down. You knew something had gone wrong, but Coach Blair Cudmore assured them their spirits were still intact.

Niagara coaches said they agreed jitters and nervousness were the biggest factors contributing to the loss. "No doubt about it. It was a very nervous time for a lot of young guys... It was their first big match that they had a chance to play which really meant live or die," said Coach Blair Cudmore.

Assistant coach Pat Purbs said it was an "up and down" game and Niagara was a little bit too nervous and tense. "Jitters and inexperience, all that combined" produced the upset loss for the Knights, he said.

The Knights' playing was generally poor in the first two sets. They were getting caught out of position and were giving up too much open floor. They began the first set trailing 7-3 and lost 15-10.

By the second set, frustration could be seen on the players as they fell behind 11-3 and lost 15-5.

In the third set, the Knights played the way they had in the new year and took the set 15-3. It looked as though the Knights had woken up and were ready to make a comeback.

The crowd of more than 40 fans (the biggest home-crowd this year for any Niagara home-game) was behind the team and never gave up hope.

Unfortunately, the spark didn't last very long as the Knights fell behind, once again, on the fourth set 12-3 and could never recover. They lost 15-7.

"Niagara was by far the better team," said Purbs. "There are a lot of factors that come into winning or losing, and unfortunately, nerves is one of the big ones - and that's what happened today," he added.

Coach Cudmore said he was disappointed with the team's consistency throughout the sets, and that was probably due to not being in a "big game" before. He said he's still very proud of his team as they came a long way from the beginning of the season, and knows with time they will be a dominant force next year.

Pat Deschambeault and Paul Clark finished the game with nine kills each, followed by Alexis Saddler with six and Warren Belle with five.

Clark led the Knights in blocking with four, followed by Saddler and Chris Wiersma with three each and Deschambeault with two.

"You can expect bigger and better things next year," said Cudmore.

The Knights expect all their players to return next year. The leadership of players like Deschambeault, along with the power of Saddler, Belle, Clark will be an important asset next year.

Coach Cudmore will also be back to continue molding the Knights into the champions they many times looked like.

On a brighter note, Deschambeault and Saddler were nominated for the first West Division All-Star team. They received awards at the OCAA Awards Banquet at Humber College in Toronto, last night.

Walk over for ladies

By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

Coach Dave Carpenter said our ladies double badminton team would go past the regionals and he couldn't have been more right.

Niagara College's ladies double team of Cindy Emery and Chris Audit went a perfect four wins and no losses at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) regional badminton championships held at St. Clair College in Windsor on Feb. 9 and 10.

Carpenter said the games were a walk over for the ladies.

"They didn't have good competition, so I couldn't tell how well they played," said coach Carpenter.

"I'm really happy with the win," said Emery, team member and a first-year Recreation Leadership program student.

The Ladies double team defeated both of their opponents twice. They played and beat Fanshawe College, London and Mohawk College, Hamilton.

According to Emery there is still some room to improve on their game.

"We need to concentrate more. We get a little unfocused when we have the lead. We've got to stay in rhythm," said Emery.

Next challenge for our ladies will be this weekend at the OCAA Championships held this weekend at Fanshawe College.

Carpenter said he thinks the ladies could go past the provincials if they keep calm and do their thing.

"I think we have a really good chance to win at Fanshawe, if we play really well on defence and on offence and stay focused," said Emery.

If Niagara College's ladies double team wins at Fanshawe, they could make it to the OCAA championship held in Malaspina, B.C., on Thursday, March 7 through to Saturday, March 9.

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Karate Do

Lady Knights still alive

By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr.
Staff Writer

Niagara's women's basketball team's playoff future lies now in Mohawk College's hands after a loss to the Mountaineers last Saturday, in Hamilton.

A Knights win would have given the team a fifth place finish and a quarter-final game against Oshawa's Durham College.

They were left waiting until Tuesday, Feb. 20 to find out the answer. Niagara had no more games left and Mohawk had one more. The Mountaineers trailed the Knights in the standings by one game.

Mohawk played Toronto's George Brown and lost.

The loss means Niagara will be playing Durham College in Oshawa, in quarter-final action.

It was another off-day for the Knights as they found themselves trailing early in the game. The Mountaineers scored on the first play, while it would take the Knights three minutes before they would score via Julie McLaren.

The mistake-prone Knights fought hard to bounce back from a 9-2 deficit to cut Mohawk's lead to 15-12, but that would be it.

The Mountaineers' offence cut quickly through Niagara's defence and by half-time Mohawk was leading 28-16.

In the second half, the Knights came out scoring first and were playing a lot harder than the first half - it was short lived though.

With five minutes left, the Mountaineers had a 51-36 lead and the some of the Knights seemed agitated and looked out of control.

Niagara's Michelle Pring (20) takes the layup in action against the Mohawk Mountaineers.

Photo by Salvador Ramos Jr.

Coach Brian Bleich said the team can't afford any weak playing in the playoffs and a turn around is needed.

Manie Roy accumulated (her usual team high) 15 points, followed by McLaren with 11. Shelley Holden had a quiet evening with seven points, three os those from a three-pointer. Michelle Pring finished with six and Tara Pepper and Lesley Smith had two each.

The Knights finished the season at 5-9. The new year's record was an even 4-4.

Next game will be on the road against Durham's Lady Lords on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.

The Knights will be playing a team which beat them in their two regular season matches, but has been struggling. It should be a great game.

Pepin provides leadership

By JOHN EATON
Staff Writer

A 20-year-old Niagara College student is scoring some important points out of the classroom.

Jason Pepin is captain of the St. Catharines Jr. B. Falcons. He recently scored his 273rd point to become the second-highest scorer in Falcons' history.

Pepin, of St. Catharines, is a second-year student in the Visual and Creative Arts and Design program. He says he expects to graduate in April.

Pepin says his biggest influence has been his dad. "He has been there my whole life. He got me into hockey. He was there four o'clock in the morning, driving me to practices in minus 20-degree weather and he never missed a practice or a game his whole life.

"He has been my greatest supporter through all of this."

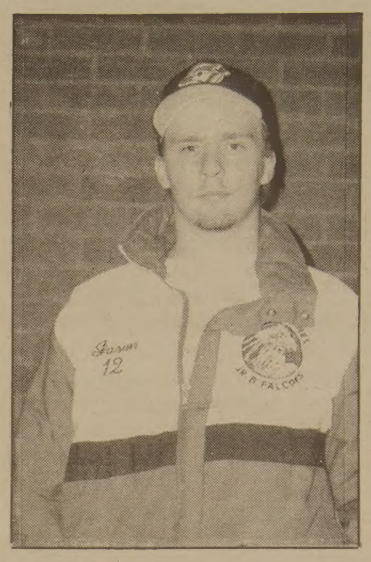
Pepin says what he enjoys most about being captain is the opportunity to provide leadership.

"You can provide some leadership to your teammates and offer any support or suggestions to the players."

He says he sometimes finds himself acting as a mediator between his coaches and his teammates. He says he often finds players coming to him for advice.

Asked if he sees himself as a role model to the younger players, Pepin says "I try to offer some advice if they have any problems.

"They've come to me this year with questions about decisions they have to make about what route to take, the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) or college."



JASON PEPIN

If a player has a problem, he goes to Pepin, and then a meeting is arranged with the coach, the player and Pepin. All three then sit down and discuss the situation.

Pepin recalled a time earlier this year when one of the players wasn't "clicking" with his linemates and decided he needed to change lines. He approached Pepin. Pepin was able to talk to the coach and give some suggestions. The player is now on a new line.

"We work hand in hand," says Pepin of his relationship with coach Gary Lariviere.

"Gary pointed that out to me in training camp. He wants me to be his right-hand man when talking to the players. I think I'm doing really well."

Away from the rink, Pepin says he enjoys designing logos and graphic arts.

"I don't know if everybody knows I'm a graphic designer. I love the arts and designing stuff."

For the last three years, he has designed and painted the Falcons' logo that appears at centre ice at the Garden City Arena, the home of the Falcons in St. Catharines.

He also put the logo for the St. Catharines Figure Skating Club on the ice. He says he also enjoys tinkering with his 1987 Trans-Am.

Pepin says the highlight of his hockey career came in 1994 when the Falcons met Waterloo in the Sutherland Cup final. The Sutherland Cup is given to the best Jr. B. team in Ontario.

St. Catharines didn't win that year, but Pepin says "some players play for ages and they never get a chance to even get close to there.

"I was fortunate enough to be with a great bunch of guys. We had a good team and I believe we could have won.

"We should have won, but it was an honor just to be there."

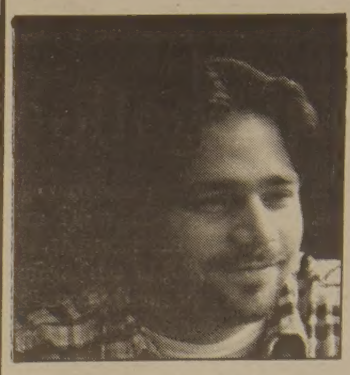
This year's playoffs start soon and Pepin says he is optimistic about the team's chances.

"We are in third, but that does not indicate the talent on our team.

"I believe we can beat Niagara Falls (the first-place team) or Port Colborne (the second-place team) or whoever. If all the guys work together, I believe we can win."

After this year, Pepin says he would like to go to Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., on a partial hockey scholarship. He says he hopes to open his own business in graphic design after graduation.

Jays looking to rebound



By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

A new baseball season brings new hope for the Toronto Blue Jays and baseball.

With the departure of Devon White to the Florida Marlins, Roberto Alomar to the Baltimore Orioles, Paul Molitor to the Minnesota Twins and Duane Ward released, the Jays have saved some big bucks, but in return they haven't spent much of what they saved on new talent.

Free-agent signings of pitcher Eric Hanson and veteran centre fielder Otis Nixon, veteran catcher Charlie O'Brien, and the return of pitcher Frank Viola on a minor league contract, should all provide a bit of leadership and hope for a .500 season.

The Jays will continue their youth movement this season, hoping Carlos Delgado and Domingo Cedeno can finally step out of the shadows of potential and into the light of greatness.

Also for those who follow two-sport wonder Deion Sanders, he has opted to put his baseball career on hold to spend time with his family in Dallas, where he plays for Super Bowl champs the Cowboys.

After last year's disappointment, the Jays have nowhere to go but up. They will need a lot of luck to make the playoffs.

The rest of the league will be working towards its first complete season in two years since the players' lock-out/strike. Last year's World Series caught the fans' attention but it was Cal Ripken of the Orioles record consecutive streak, that showed the fans how to love the game they grew to hate.

Attendance fell around the league and for it to increase to the enormous attendance records three years ago, ticket prices will have to fall.

If there is any advice I could give to baseball and its players it would be to remember who your real bosses are — the fans. If baseball wants to succeed where other sports have failed it has to start playing for the pride of the game and not the endorsements and dollars.

It is too bad that baseball has become so much of a business, that players are no longer part of team but rather an asset.

Put aside the business and look at baseball with child-like innocence again and you will see the glory of the greatest game around.

Finishing on a down slope

By BRIAN BOWMAN
Staff Writer

It was only fitting that Niagara's men's basketball team's season would end on a down note.

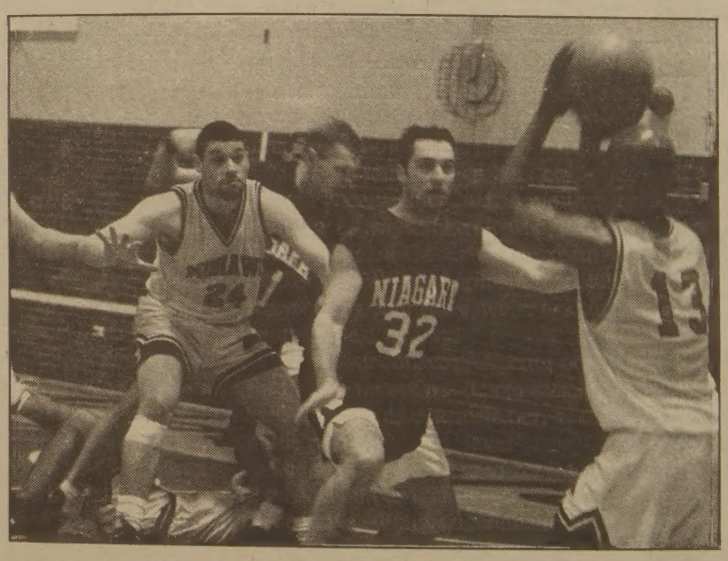
The Knights, owners of a 6-10 Ontario Colleges Athletic Association regular season record, dropped a heart-breaking loss to the second-place Sheridan College Bruins of Oakville (13-3) to finish the regular season without an invitation to post-season play.

The Knights dropped four out their last five games, in missing out on their quest to the playoffs for the second year in a row under sophomore head coach Randy Conlon.

The Knights blew a 45-41 halftime lead to Hamilton's Mohawk College (4-11, and four points back of Niagara in the OCAA West Region), dropping yet another close game, 79-77, to the Mountaineers.

"We were horrible in the second half," said Conlon, whose leading scorer Mike Hurley was held to a pair of points in the game via free throws. "I don't want to take anything away from Mohawk, but they're not a very good team — we just didn't play well."

The Knights' season-ending loss was a spirited 88-81 effort at the hands of Etobicoke's Sheridan College, 12-3 during the regular season, and one of the early favorites to take the OCAA title.



Niagara's Mike Hurley (32) looks on as the Knights were left looking for a win in their last four games.
Photo by Salvador Ramos Jr.

"You're never happy with a loss, but I was pleased with our effort against Sheridan," said Conlon. "They needed a win for second place, and we went in there and played a real good ball game. We were real patient on offence, getting good looks (at the basket), and we made our shots."

The Knights' were led offensively by 6-6 rookie forward Keith Tenney's 17 points and 13 rebounds. Conlon said he was impressed with the Keswick native's strength underneath the basket for the Knights.

Rheinhold Klassen, the 6-2 guard from Niagara-on-the-Lake, scored 15 for Niagara, while Hurley and swingman Paul Weekes added 14 apiece.

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SPEAKERS' SERIES

By VICTOR ZANIEWSKI
Staff Writer

"War is nothing more and nothing less than raw, sheer human brutality," says Dr. James Orbinski.

Orbinski, 35, is a member of Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF). This native of Harlow, Essex, England, armed with medical degree and fluency in English and French found himself unprepared for the reality of war-torn regions of the world. His first hand accounts seem surreal.

In his struggles to understand war, he has identified three steps leading up to it. Step one involves dehumanizing the enemy by "creating a difference between us and them." The next step is a total "disregard for the symbols and institutions that define our humanity."

Orbinski says in the Hutus' effort to dehumanize their enemies they classified all Tutsis as "insects," adding the killings in Rwanda were a "systematic eradication" of insects.

The final step is "the literal" forgetting of the humanity of another person.

The tragedy of Somalia was the lack of civic infrastructure, says Orbinski. He describes the country as "a region in a state of anarchy."

Orbinski says "no one country could do anything." This totalitarian state was ran by "gangs of thugs formed out of dissolved armies."

He speaks in affectionate terms about the United Nations (UN). This institution has "enormous intervention potential." He warns, however, it is "an imperfect institution."

For a while the French government was trying to dissuade the council from any kind of intervention. France had a long-standing colonial interest in Rwanda.

Orbinski, wanting the people to walk away from this forum with an understanding that UN can make a difference, illustrated his point with examples of East Timor and Uganda, two countries where nothing has been done.

He says that media as "the guardian of truth" has an obligation to inform of atrocities. Orbinski stresses that justice has a "legitimate place at the political table.

"No war, no act of brutality of prolonged inhumane suffering will be healed in the minds and lives of those who have experienced it, unless there is justice."

In a scholarly fashion, Orbinski observes that to understand war one must understand people.

Orbinski says the late Joseph Campbell, an American scholar who dedicated his life to the study of myth and culture, had successfully identified four driving energies in human existence.

Three of the four energies are the desire to sustain life, the desire to procreate and the desire to dominate. Pausing to elaborate, he says "domination is not necessarily a bad and not necessarily a good thing.

"In the absence of the fourth factor" the other three lead to war. Orbinski says the fourth factor is compassion. Citing Campbell, he says it is "the glue that holds the fabric of society together.

"We are at the critical point in history," says Orbinski, adding today three concepts shape our world: environmentalism, feminism, and desire for human rights. These three, Orbinski says "very much shape the future of tomorrow."

The speakers' series panelists discuss their experiences with war. From left: Charles Anteros, Sinisa Maric, Innocent Kabenga and Dr. James Orbinski.

Photo by Laury Reid

SUDAN

By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr.
Staff Writer

Many always think life imitates art, but one can see how art imitates life by listening to speakers such as Charles Anteros.

Born in 1971 in Sudan, Anteros, 24, was born into a civil war which was tearing the country apart. His parents left Sudan for Uganda escaping the war, but when back four years later when the country seemed more peaceful and stable.

He always lived "hearing the war from a distance," until it touched him in Sudan.

Anteros said he has seen many injustices and still remembers when the Islamic government would not help anyone who wasn't Islamic. They would not allow the United Nations to give help to anybody.

The war in Sudan has been going on more than 30 years and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight said Anteros. "The reasons for the fighting vary from religion, race, economics, geography and many others."

He says he was at the end of his studies to become a priest but he had to abandone his trade, since his security in the country was jeopardized by the battles between the government and the rebels.

He arrived in Canada in June 1991, to the "promised land."

Anteros was able to make the trip with the help of the World University Service of Canada, and was sponsored by the Canadian government and Brock University in St. Catharines.

He is studying political sciences at Brock. He said he loves his new home and is very impressed. "The thing which impressed me the most was how I haven't seen a soldier on the streets of Canada."

He resides in St. Catharines and has lived there since he has been in Canada. He lived with sponsoring families, until a couple of yers ago when he got Innocent Kabenga as a room mate.

Kabenga is from Rwanda and was a member of the same pannel of students in last Tuesday's forum *(see related story this page)*.

"There's prosperity and peace everywhere, and everything is in order," he said "this is the promised land."

Anteros said he's not a Canadian citizen yet, but should become one by the time June of this year arrives. he said being a Canadian carries a lot of weight in the world.

"When I went to Europe people treated me really good because of my Canadian Passport. There were some Americans there, but being Canadian really meant a lot more."

* * *

WAR PANEL

* * *

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

By TRACY LAPRISE
Staff Writer

He fled from Croatia to Bosnia to Belgrad to Canada and made it.

Sinisa Maric, 31, represented former Yugoslavia at the Niagara College seminar on Feb. 20, to answer the question Why Is There Still War In Our World?

Maric, who was a lawyer in the former Yugoslavia, is currently taking Ontario Basic Skills at Niagara College at the St. Catharines campus and is a full-time law clerk student at the Welland campus. On Wednesday nights he takes paralegal training at the Welland campus. He graduated from the labour market training program in St. Catharines.

His mother and father are currently seperated. His mother lives in Croatia and his father lives in Serbia. When the war started, his father started a new life in Serbia.

Maric says he was born in Croatia but left in fear and didn't want to take part in any army.

He says he was physically forced to flee. The conditions were very unstable and people never knew who was going to claim their rights. If the claim was disputed, it was automatically reason for war.

In the summer of 1991, he says he fled from Croatia and moved to Bosnia until the middle of summer 1992 because it was safer. People struggled and fled to move to safer parts after the war broke out.

He says he's glad North Atlantic Treaty Organization is there because it will keep the peace.

"I really didn't see directly anything and didn't experience any bombarding," says Maric.

During the winter of 1992 there was a lack of electricity for over 30 days in northern Bosnia. "This was unbelievable," says Maric.

Before the war, all parts of the former Yugoslavia had a lot of power plants.

Maric says it seemed in the former Yugoslavia that people enjoyed other people's problems.

"This is reality," says Maric.

In Belgrad, he says he had embassy documents made up so he could come to Canada. His brother, who currently lives in Niagara Falls, helped him out but came across problems because the embassy wanted new sponsorship.

During the panel discussion, Maric replied to a question by saying that Canada is a wonderful place and is very helpful to those people who have experienced war. The only way to forget is to find a new life and continue with it.

RWANDA

By LAURY REID
Staff Writer

Society today is losing its "morals and ethics," said a former Rwandan refugee.

Innocent Kabenga, 32, is a third-year Urban and Environmental Studies student at Brock University. "We need ethics in our schools all over the world," he said as one of the panelists on Tuesday night's speakers' series topic Why Is There Still War In Our World?

Originally from Cyangugu, Kabenga's family fled from their homeland in 1973 when the government was thrown out and a new military regime began massacring people. They went to Burundi and stayed until 1989, then moved on to Tanzania. Kabenga moved to Canada on Sept. 15, 1994.

He hasn't been back to Rwanda since.

"I left (Rwanda) when I was 10 but will always be a part of my country." Although he has lived in three other countries, he said "specifically I belong to Rwanda."

He said the 1994 genocide in Rwanda was difficult for him because he was writing exams at the time and was worried about his family.

Dr. James Orbinski, former vice-president of Medecins Sans Frontieres International/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), said two key issues for Rwanda right now are justice and the justice system. He said $190 million was promised to Rwanda by other governments to set up a justice system, yet only $7.5 million has been given up to this point.

Kabenga said being involved in activities that help the world aids in the healing process from the traumas he experienced. "It is very important that students get interested and involved in international matters and try to contribute to giving peace and solutions."

Kabenga is involved in the World University Service of Canada, a group dealing with international development through education; Hope for Rwanda's Children Fund, a Toronto-based group working through the YMCA; Brock African and Caribbean Association, a social and cultural group; Le Griffon, a French cultural centre based in St. Catharines; and International Students Association.

FACE TO FACE

SAC welcomes three new representatives

By LEE-ANN AYRES
Staff Writer

Niagara College Student Administrative Council's (SAC) three newest members will be facing some tough issues and hard decisions and above all that they'll have to attend classes.

AMANDA CHEEVERS

Sitting confidently at her desk, Vice-president of Athletics Affairs Amanda Cheevers says she's up to the challenge. "I think I can do just as a good of a job as past V.P.'s (vice-presidents)."

Cheevers, 19, a first-year Visual and Creative Arts-Design program student, says her interest in student council started when she was in high school. "I was a grade rep. (representative) at North Park High School (in Brantford)."

Although Cheevers doesn't play on any of the school's teams, she says, "I think I can help promote Niagara athletics. I hope to get more people involved with the school's teams and intermural sports, as well as get people involved with school excursions."

Cheevers assumed her position at the Feb. 6 Board of Directors meeting. She, along with Melody Mayville and Kyle Anderson stepped up from class representative to executive members. Their promotion was a result of resignations handed in by Paula Dempsey, vice-president executive, Mike Matowski, vice-president external affairs and Lyndon Johnston, vice-president of athletics.

Cheevers says so far she has enjoyed her role as a SAC member and says she may run for re-election. "Possibly, I'm not sure what position yet."

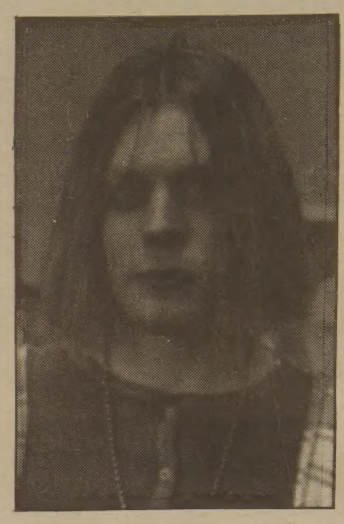
Class representatives to executive SAC members

She says she enjoys being on SAC. "I think they're great and easy to get along with."

Anderson, vice-president of internal affairs, says he notices no real change to his lifestyle after being appointed to an executive position. "Basically, I was putting in 10 hours a week before (being appointed)."

Anderson, 19, is a first-year Electronics Engineering Technology program student from Niagara Falls.

Anderson says he helped out a lot before the appointment. During the United Way campaign, he personally raised $900.



KYLE ANDERSON

Before his executive appointment, he was appointed to class representative by his class. He says he's never run for a position. He's either been appointed or convinced to take a position.

Anderson says he will have the chance to experience running for a position in March when he plans to seek re-election. "I'll probably go for the same position."

Because he was appointed so late in the school term, Anderson says his title is "just a name."

Anderson says he's not replacing anyone. Instead, he's taking over for Mark McNiven, who replaced Dempsey as vice-president executive. "There is no way I could ever replace anyone because they are all dynamite."

Three newest members that were appointed to SAC will be facing tough issues and hard decisions

Mayville, a first-year Legal Assistant program student from St. Catharines, couldn't be more excited about her appointment.

Being a mature student, Mayville promised herself to "get the full college experience."

Mayville says she enjoys attending the meetings and it shows. She always voices her opinion and takes a stand, with the hopes of getting the best for the students.

Originally from London, Ont., Mayville is single and stresses that she is there for the students. "I want SAC to be accessible. The door is always open. Some people don't even know where we are."

Mayville admits that SAC takes up a lot of her free time. "It's demanding. I spend all my free time in SAC which I don't have a lot of.

"It's been terrific to be a part of the decision making. I wish I could be allowed more time to be involved."

MELODY MAYVILLE

Mayville says she won't run for SAC in March because of an eight-month-long co-op. That won't stop her from being involved. Mayville has been acclaimed as the student representative on the Board of Governors.

Mayville says she and the others are still in the learning process. "I have a great deal of respect for the members (of SAC), especially the three who were on prior to our appointment."

Bursaries available

By JOHN ROUSSEL
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Alumni Foundation is making bursaries available to assist students in need.

There will be five bursaries available worth $300 each.

"The alumni wants to help students to finish their education," says Lewis Silvestri, a part-time English teacher at the college and a member of the foundation.

Students can apply for the bursaries at the Financial Aid Department in March.

The criteria for eligibility for the bursaries is a financial need, a student's commitment to his or her studies and a 70 per cent average. Students must be going into second or third year to apply.

Also available from the association are 10 emergency loans worth $100. Application forms are available at the Access and Student Success Office.

The money for the loans and bursaries was raised by the alumni foundation through a phone-a-thon held in October and through the sale of diploma frames that can be purchased at graduation.

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Employment Services help graduates

By KATHLEEN FERRIS
Staff Writer

'Tis the season! It's resume time again.

Graduation time, for some students, is fast approaching and it's time to create your first resume or polish up the old one.

Either way Niagara College's Employment Services can assist students in achieving a resume that will highlight successfully what you have to offer potential employers.

Janet Forfar, career services officer at Employment Services, encourages graduates to, "start your job search soon. If students need a job immediately after graduation, they definitely need to be under way now with their job search and I definitely encourage students to come to Employment Services to get any help they require."

Employment Services offers many resume-related services for students including business directories which are issued by each town's or city's economic development office listing businesses in their area.

Within each list are descriptions of the company's products, number of employees and the names and titles of the company's key personnel, valuable to students when mailing resumes.

Some directories are located in the college's library and public libraries.

At Employment Services is a telephone for business-related calls including free long distance.

Individual appointments with Forfar for resume assistance are available. These focus, "a little more specifically on each student's own situations, their own set of skills, their own education and their own particular circumstances," said Forfar.

JANET FORFAR

Forfar makes classroom visits. The discussions are based upon what makes a good resume and what employers are looking for.

"Everybody's resume is different and everybody's resume reflects their own situation," said Forfar.

"I talk much more specifically about the skills they're trying to sell to employers related to their training, their interests and their employment background."

Competitively priced resume printing is also available at Employment Services for $7 a page and $4 for a cover letter.

Descriptions of full-time job opportunities are available in Employment Services. These are forwarded to program co-ordinators to announce in class and/or post.

Students can register for job opportunities after graduation. Fill out a graduate registration form, which can be picked up at Employment Services, and return it along with six copies of your resume.

Employment Services will act on the student's behalf and forward resumes directly to employers seeking graduate applications. Students are asked to stay in touch so their file of resumes is kept filled and up-to-date. Information on where your resumes have been sent is available for students and an access record is kept for each registered graduate.

When students get full-time related employment, it's important for them to inform Employment Services.

Only five per cent of jobs are posted in newspapers by employers. "Employers prefer to fill their positions through networking, recruiting and trade specific journals and postings at the college," said Forfar.

For more information contact Forfar at Ext. 7787.

Declining funds are the core of contention

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Rosen says when students attend an educational institution they go to learn something, to broaden their horizons and get educated. "That hasn't changed." She says what has changed is how information gets communicated.

According to Rosen, college presidents are insisting they can deliver education, making it a "product and students are widgets."

"I think that is an unfair characterization of what is going on in higher education," Patterson states. "We're seeing a challenge being put to all public institutions, doing business differently. The challenge for us is to adapt our programs and services to meet the needs of the student body. That requires creativity and innovation. We simply cannot do business like we have done in the past. To continue to be vibrant we must examine and constantly improve the way we carry on."

"The real problem is the educators are no longer making these decisions," says Rosen. "It's based on how much it will cost. The barriers to an efficient, effective college system are the people who forget it is a system of education and make decisions based on nothing other than dollars."

Rosen says college administration has responded "not totally negatively" to the union's recommendations.

The union recommended the need for on-going communication, keeping future needs in focus. Also, the union wants a developed educational agenda with a focus on quality education and the need for a strategic approach to human resource planning.

Patterson says, "There has been a spirit of co-operation (in working with faculty's demands) . . . on the things that are achievable. There has been a recognition that in some cases we just cannot continue the kind of programming that we've had in the past because the funds are simply not there to sustain them."

Niagara College is phasing out the Nursing program, having the last graduating class in 1998. Administration has suspended the Interior Design program based on the program's lower than expected contribution to college overhead and its low graduate retention rate. The Manufacturing/Mechanical Engineering Technology program will continue to operate with the possibility of turning it into a technician program. Dental programs at Niagara are also under close scrutiny. Alternate delivery processes and declining funding from the Ministry of Education and Training are at the core of contention.

Rosen says Niagara College administration is "essentially ignoring all" of the recommendations pertaining to the programs under change.

"They've decided to go ahead. This entire plan the college came up with about chopping the programs and chopping the people wasn't anything we had any input to. Neither did their middle managers. It was a select few, that did it sort of behind the scenes, and it was dumped on us."

Student wants to help special needs children

'Patience and kindness qualities for helping,' Barclay

By JENNIFER TURNER
Staff Writer

Kerri Barclay's reading problems in elementary school convinced her to help other children.

"My Grade 6 teacher helped me to overcome it. He showed me different ways to study. Made it like a game," said Barclay, 20, of St. Catharines. "I'm fine now. I admire him for the way he helped me. I'd like to help children the same way he helped me."

Almost six years ago Barclay's cousin, Jennifer was born with Toxoplasmosis. She babysits her.

"I always enjoy working with her," said Barclay who discovered a joy in working with developmentally challenged children at Lakeport Secondary School.

"I've had several co-ops dealing with special needs children," said Barclay. "I enjoy getting the kids to smile because they don't have much joy in their life. When I make them laugh it makes me feel good that I made a difference in their life. It really does," she said matter-of-factly.

"I enjoyed working with Jamie just because of his growing disability. It gets worse everyday but he's fun to be with. He's not unhappy that he's deteriorating. I'm sure he's worried but he doesn't let on. He's not worried about when he's going to die. He's happy living for today," said Barclay. "I think we can all learn something from him...he is trying to live for the moment when he may not see his next birthday," said Barclay in a serious tone.

Working with these children isn't always smiles and laughs, though.

"Some of their illnesses don't get better. They regress more. I worked with one kid, who was a typical teenager, into sports. He found out he had multiple sclerosis (MS) (when he was 10) and was confined to a wheelchair," said Barclay. "You don't feel sorry for them you just want to take some of their pain away." Another child she "didn't know too well" at the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre passed away. She advises not to get too attached to the children because they can also move to another home.

Barclay realizes she's among many people who would like to work in this field. Her first application to the Educational Resources and Special Needs (ERSN) program at Niagara College wasn't accepted. Despite her disappointment, she didn't give up and started the Developmental Handicap Service Worker program at Niagara College in St. Catharines. This year, she was excited to be accepted into the ERSN program.

She said the program teaches the students how to work with and teach math and reading to children who have special needs.

Although unemployed, Barclay is optimistic."I'd like to get a well-paying job working with special needs, working in a group home setting or teaching things like math and reading in a school setting.

"The typical job won't pay that much but I just love to do it," said Barclay. "Money's not the issue." Barclay has done volunteer work in the past. She will be starting another volunteer position at Linhaven Home for the Aged working with elderly people who have Alzheimer's disease.

"I find the Niagara College students really friendly and fun to hang out with. I've met a lot of new people. When I'm not in classes I can be found at the pub (After Hours on campus) playing Euchre 101," laughs Barclay. "I like to go out and have a good time on the weekend with my friends."

Barclay cites her ability to detach along with her "patience and kindness as qualities for helping developmentally-challenged children."